



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Army Street Divided Over Cesar Chavez Name Change

By Jim Christie

In a move that stunned many Noe Valley residents, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Jan. 9 to rename the entire length of Army Street in honor of Cesar Chavez, the United Farm Workers leader who died in 1993.

By opting to rename all of Army, the board threw out a compromise brokered during a Dec. 15 meeting of the supervisors' Housing and Land Use Committee.

At the earlier hearing, after listening to a large contingent of Army Street residents voice their opposition to the name change, supervisors Bill Maher and Sue Bierman adopted a plan to rename only the wider, four-lane portion of Army, from Maryland Street to Guerrero.

The Noe Valley segment of Army Street—where the road narrows and climbs up the hill from Guerrero to Douglass Street—was supposed to retain its original name, which dates back to 1860.

At the Jan. 9 meeting, however, the newly constituted Board of Supervisors decided that Chavez deserved nothing less than the entire street.

In mid-January, Mayor Frank Jordan was expected to allow the measure to stand, and according to a spokesperson from the city's Department of Parking and Traffic, the new Cesar Chavez street signs—including 24 freeway signs at the Army Street off-ramps for highways 101 and 280—would go up "within a couple of months after the mayor approves the legislation."

But many Army Street residents were not applauding.

Phillip Jacka, a 20-year resident and business owner from the 4300 block of Army, described the board's decision as "an intrusive and invasive action against a population that is clearly opposed." The neighbors on his block had submitted a petition to the board with more than 350 signatures against the change.

Another Army Street resident, Larry



As of Jan. 9, all of Army Street, from Noe Valley to the Bay, was to be renamed Cesar Chavez Boulevard. But that was before the cost estimates came in. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

Fritts, said he had canvassed the businesses on the entire length of the street and found 38 opposed, 3 noncommittal, and none in favor of the name change.

Jerry Steiner, who lives on the 3900 block of Army, called the supervisors' action "an unbelievable display of arrogance. Some of my neighbors are lifelong

San Franciscans who had never been to a board meeting. Now they are very disillusioned with how this city is run." Steiner is exploring the requirements for placing a measure on the next ballot that would rescind the board's action.

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It May Be Just As Hard to Stop Busing As to Start It

By Denise Minor

A San Francisco Unified School District plan to re-draw school boundaries and dramatically reduce busing next year might have the intended effect of attracting more Noe Valley youngsters to Alvarado, Fairmount, and Edison elementary schools.

But it is also causing considerable confusion and raising questions about how the schools will continue to meet federal laws requiring ethnic diversity.

"They [the school district] bit off more than they can handle," said Alvarado Principal Sandra Leigh. "In a computer room somewhere they tried to figure out how to move around 3,500 slots for next year and did not look at the programs and realities faced by individual schools."

According to school district official Deborah Alvarez, the confusion will soon be replaced by greater satisfaction among students, parents, and faculty. "Also, this will only affect the incoming kindergarten children starting with the 1995-96 school year, and even then their parents will have a choice to send them to the old school or the new one."

Alvarez is director of intergovernmental services for the district. This past year Superintendent Bill Rojas assigned her the task of reorganizing the city's elementary school attendance areas. She was asked to keep three goals in mind: schools must remain fully integrated, there must be an increase in neighborhood attendance, and there must be an increase in parental choice in school assignments.

The formula Alvarez and her colleagues came up with calls for re-drawing school assignment areas so that more children will attend schools closer to their homes. Announced in early December, the plan applies to elementary schools only, and hopes to reduce busing of kindergartners in the fall of 1995 by about 30 percent, or 2,100 children systemwide.

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Soaked Hillside Gives Way on Noe Street

By Loren J. Bialik

Daniel Parrillo and George Rego sure started the new year off with a bang. Or maybe crash would be a better word. At 2:30 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 5, they were awakened by a smashing sound.

"George had just come back from letting the dog out," Parrillo recalled. "He came back to bed and maybe five seconds later there was this huge crash. We thought it could be an earthquake. We felt the house rumbling."

Then it occurred to them that the street might have collapsed. So they rushed out the front door of their small cottage at 1344 Noe St., which faces the hillside community garden at Army and Noe. Finding nothing amiss, Rego dashed back through the house to the back yard.

When he opened the door and took a step out, he immediately slipped on a two-inch layer of mud that covered his doorstep. Then he saw that part of the steep hill behind their cottage had come toppling down, incited by the monsoon of wind and rain that thrashed the Bay Area last month.

Parrillo ran for a flashlight. "I finally got out there with this tiny flashlight, and right there is a boulder the size of a Volkswagen bug, where our lawn furniture used to be."

Although the rocks and mudslide demolished their lawn furniture, ravaged their landscaping, and pulverized a concrete retaining wall, only a few of the projectiles struck the house, causing minor

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Rains caused a mudslide, carrying a boulder "the size of a Volkswagen bug," to obliterate the backyard patio of a cottage at Noe and Army streets last month. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP



As this 1958 photo shows, the intersection of 25th and Sanchez has had a checkered (and flooded) past.

'Block from Hell' Was Waterlogged Before

Editor:

Yes, 25th Street is a mess ["Residents on 'Block from Hell' Still Waiting for Dust to Clear," December/January Voice]. But it has been a mess before.

I have pictures from 1958 that show 25th and Sanchez to be quite liquid. You can see a car swimming in the middle of the intersection, which was filled with about a foot and a half of water. I remember the river running down 25th to Church Street, then turning right on Church down to the flats.

My grandparents, Bob and Tex Anderson, ran Bob & Tex Groceries at 1199 Sanchez from 1950 to 1961. A picture of my grandmother and me was taken in front of their store in 1954. My family lived just down the street at 3964 25th St.

Back in one of your summer issues, you featured the ladies at Mylene's salon, on Castro at Jersey. My sister-in-law, Eileen Claytor, is one of the stylists. Eileen is a native of Eureka Valley. She is married to my brother Michael, a Mission native like his five brothers and sisters. Three of us still live in the Mission.

Rodney Morgan
Dolores Street



Rodney Morgan was 7 when this 1954 photo was taken with his grandmother, Emma "Tex" Anderson. She and her husband ran Bob & Tex Groceries at 1199 Sanchez St.

LETTERS 32¢

Dogs and Kids Can Be Best Friends

Editor:

Your story on the dog crisis at Noe Courts [December/January Voice] gives short shrift to the strong consensus that already exists among the various neighbors and users of the park.

No one wants dog messes in the park. No one wants barking dogs, wild dogs, biting dogs, too many dogs, dogs in the sandbox. No one doubts that the neighborhood's children are first among equals. There is no disagreement about any of these issues.

The real issue is how to keep the park clean, safe, and friendly. By the end of the Nov. 9 meeting at the library, everyone seemed to agree that the answer was not more regulations, police patrols, or fences, but greater consideration for other users of the park, greater civic responsibility.



I for one was glad to hear the parents give their views, but saddened to hear so many of them say they didn't bring their children to the park anymore. Apart from everything else, dogs and children enjoy a magical bond, and banning dogs from Noe Courts would not only be unworkable, I think, but pointlessly divisive.

Let's instead use the public pressure and expressions of discontent to reach a new *modus vivendi* for all of us who value the park and want to be proud of it.

Paul Reidinger
Twenty-third Street

The True Nature of Harry Street

Editor:

I was pleased to see that you shared our little-known corner of the city with your readers ["It's a Pleasure to Tarry on a Stairway Named Harry," December/January Voice]. However, as a longtime resident of the Harry Stairway, I must take objection to part of the article.

Either the writer or the person he interviewed characterized the Harry Stairs as a dump ("the grounds were trashed with debris") before the neighbors collaborated on a renovation project.

I have lived on the stairway for 17 years, and this right of way has always been one of the most beautiful secluded spots in the city. It has never been a dump.

Since I moved here, I have been maintaining the bottom third of the stairway, working towards keeping it in a natural but controlled state. Before me, Stuart Foster worked for over 50 years on the stairs. On the upper section, other neighbors have been working and planting for at least 15 years.

A garden is not created by planting 200 plants in a weekend and then watching them flower in the spring. Plant growth is slow. The development of a garden is evolutionary, and it requires patience, perseverance, and a kind hand towards the soil.

Yes, do come visit Harry Street—now, six months from now, and six years from now. There is no revolution here, just nature taking its course, with a little direction from those of us who live here.

Alan Grinberg
Harry Street

Tree Hugging Not Always Gentle

Editor:

I am the homeowner on Sanchez Street to whom Jocelyn Cohen was referring in her letter defending street trees ["Trees Should Be Free to Green," December/January Voice].

For the record, I would like to reiterate that "some activists *can't* see the forest for the trees," as the headline for my letter in the October 1994 issue stated. These few women [who are lobbying against the removal of neighborhood trees] have a cause and are youthfully idealistic.

The cause is good, but they have no concept of a property owner's responsibility to the public safety, nor any awareness of the damage an invasive tree can do to one's property.

They also have no empathic consciousness of the elderly not having the physical strength they used to have.

What's more, I have had graffiti put on my new sidewalk that will not wash off.

At this stage of my life I shouldn't have to go through all this aggravation.

Thelma Gilland
Sanchez Street

Want to Go to Ireland This Summer?

Editor:

We have heard a lot about San Francisco, especially Noe Valley, and want to know if any of your readers would be interested in doing a house swap for two to four weeks in July or July/August.

We have three kids ages 10 to 14. Our home has four bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths. It is situated close to 300-acre Morley Park, which has golf courses, playgrounds, etc.

The house is also close to a shopping area, and a short drive away from Dublin City center.

For more information, contact us at the address below, or call my brother in Noe Valley at 550-7165.

We are looking forward to hearing from interested parties.

Marian and Tom Mullin
11 Hermitage Ave.
Rathfarnham
Dublin 16, Ireland



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
1021 Sanchez Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

The Noe Valley Voice is an independent newspaper published monthly except in January and August. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity, on or before the first Wednesday of the month. Subscriptions are available at a cost of \$15 per year (\$9 per year for seniors) by writing to the above address. The Voice welcomes your letters, photos, artwork, and manuscripts. However, all such items must include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters to the editor will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Editorial: 821-3324

Subscriptions: Scott Paterson, 206-1910

Distribution: Misha Yagudin, 752-1726

Display Advertising Only:

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Class Ads: See Page 47

Advertising Deadline for the
March 1995 Issue: Feb. 17, 1995
Editorial Deadline: Feb. 15, 1995

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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Contents ©1995 The Noe Valley Voice



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a valentine from
Indigo V!

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Where Are We? London? The forecast calls for rain followed by more rain possibly turning to showers by the weekend. PHOTO BY ED BURYN

Army Street Goes Down But Not Without a Fight

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Some residents feel betrayed by one of their own. Supervisor Susan Leal, a 26th Street resident who has served on the board since June of 1993.

At the Jan. 9 meeting, Leal gave an impassioned speech in support of the proposal to rename all of Army, despite the fact that she had earlier favored the compromise.

Said Paul Kantus, secretary of the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, "I'm very disappointed. I sent our newsletter [outlining concerns about the name change] to each supervisor. Susan Leal was the only one who responded. She sent me a letter and I thought she was supportive. I guess she thought she could get away with something, and she did."

Mitchell Friedman, a resident of the 3900 block of Army and another opponent of the name change, also received a letter from Leal dated Dec. 9. It stated that "the Police Department has recommended that only a section of Army between Guerrero and Maryland be renamed to Cesar Chavez Boulevard. This development is relevant to you because your home is located in the area that will not be changing its name to Cesar Chavez."

"After talking to some of your neighbors," Leal's letter continued, "I have learned that this is an idea that most of the residents of Noe Valley can support, since homes in the Noe Valley area will not need to change their address."

Leal has her backers, however, and they include Miriam Blaustein, a decades-long resident of Army Street.

"Susan Leal was raised in Noe Valley, and she knows the neighborhood," Blaustein said. "And Cesar Chavez! Here's a man who changed a lot of people's lives. I'm delighted. I'm an old peacenik, and I've always hated living on a street named Army."

Also in favor of the plan was Frank Martin DelCampo, of the Lahor Council for Latin American Advancement. DelCampo said his canvassers had obtained hundreds of advocates' signatures, 140 of which were Army Street residents. He admitted that the canvassers met resistance in the upper blocks of Army, but felt that Noe Valley's lack of enthusiasm was due to residents preferring to avoid

conflict with their neighbors.

Reached in the week following the Jan. 9 vote, Supervisor Leal told the *Voice* that despite the waffling, she still believes she made the right choice.

"I thought a lot about this decision. I was very conflicted about it," Leal said. "I like compromise, and at first I thought, this is a compromise I can support. But then two things struck me. First, no one who opposed the change [at the committee hearing] stood up and said, 'I like the compromise.' No one! And no one called me subsequently and said, 'I like it.'"

"More importantly," she added, "these are violent times. Cesar Chavez stood for non-violence, and I felt that his name should be put in a place where people could see it *day in, day out*, as a reminder."

Leal also maintained that support had grown since the original hearing. She and other supervisors received petitions, letters, visits, and phone calls from proponents in numbers that swayed the board. Although she admits that most Army Street businesses were against the change, she received a number of calls from Noe Valley residents who were for it, a few saying they were "ashamed" that some of their neighbors were opposed.

But it was this kind of inference—that anti-change equaled anti-Chavez sentiment—that was most disturbing to opponents of the name change.

Twenty-fourth Street merchant Harry Aleo, who fought both the Army Street change and an earlier proposal to rename 24th Street after Chavez, responded this way: "My hero is Joe DiMaggio. But if they were trying to rename Army Street Joe DiMaggio Boulevard, I'd be down at City Hall fighting that one, too."

"Army Street represents a lot of history," Aleo said, "and the supervisors shouldn't be trying to change history."

Phillip Jacka was offended that at the committee hearing "one after another of those in favor got up, charged us with racism, and then proceeded to argue against prejudice rather than *for* a name change."

Another resident who attended the committee hearing remarked, "If I heard Prop. 187 used as a reason once, I heard

it 13 times. It was insulting. People from Noe Valley voted overwhelmingly against 187, even more so than the Mission District."

"Cesar Chavez was never the issue," added Jerry Steiner. He said most people agreed Chavez should be honored, but not in a way that would cause so much disruption. "Why not name the new library after him?" Steiner asked.

Others, like *Chronicle* columnist Herb Caen, have suggested renaming South Van Ness. But Marcia D'Orazi, a manager at A & G (Army and Guerrero) Pharmacy, argues that "Cesar Chavez didn't dedicate his life so that he could have his name on a freeway exit sign. Actually, I think it's kind of demeaning."

In D'Orazi's view, the money that will be needed to implement the change would be better spent on Cesar Chavez scholarships. "Eight to ten students could be sent to Berkeley for a year for what this is going to cost," she said.

D'Orazi said she thought the Board of Supervisors behaved like a "high school pretend government," and she bemoaned the paperwork that A & G now faced, including changing its state and federal licenses and listings with HMOs, Medi-Cal, and Medicare.

One businessman was even stronger in his condemnation. Jay Veach, owner of the Boat and Motor Mart on Army and South Van Ness, plans to close. "This is the most business-unfriendly city I've ever seen, and [the supervisors] don't understand that it's business taxes that pay their way."

Veach estimated that it would cost him \$10,000 to \$12,000 to change his stationery, logos, and business contracts. With that high a price tag, he might as well

incur moving expenses, he said. "I'm going to write Mayor Jordan and tell him. I'll go somewhere where they like business, perhaps the East Bay or Peninsula."

Supervisor Leal noted, however, that residents and business owners would have until the year 2000 to make the switch. And she pointed out that in the intervening five years, Army Street would be known as both Army Street and Cesar Chavez Boulevard.

"I think in time people will be proud to say they live or work on Cesar Chavez Boulevard," Leal said. □

Editor's Note: Just as we were putting this issue to bed, the state's highway department, Caltrans, announced that it would cost \$900,000 to change the freeway signs at highways 101 and 280 from Army Street to Cesar Chavez Boulevard. Meanwhile, the city's Board of Supervisors had budgeted only \$24,000.

In a letter to Frank Jordan dated Jan. 23, Supervisor Susan Leal said she was exploring whether Caltrans could reduce costs by shortening the name to "Chavez Street," or affixing stickers to the old signs. But she also wrote, "Mr. Mayor, I assure you that as much as I am committed to honoring Cesar Chavez, I am unwilling to proceed unless it can be accomplished without financial burden for the City and County of San Francisco."



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S.F. Tries to Cut Busing and Revive the 'Neighborhood School'

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The new neighborhood zones will be phased in over five years, one grade at a time, Alvarez says. In the fall of 1996, for example, two grades—kindergartners and first-graders (the previous year's kindergartners)—will fall within the new boundaries.

As a new grade is added each year—and as more parents participate in the Optional Enrollment Program, Alvarez said—the number of students being bused out of their neighborhoods will decline further. She added that the neighborhood-schools idea will also be enhanced by the 1997 completion of two new elementary schools in the Sunset and Tenderloin neighborhoods.

"The impetus for this change came from a number of sources," Alvarez explained. "In the past few years we've heard over and over again from parents that they want their kids to walk to school and that they want high-quality neighborhood schools," she said.

"They did not feel that it was in their child's best interest to get on a bus for 45 minutes every morning to travel to school."

More Parents Opting for Edison

In January, Ken Romines, principal of Edison Elementary School at 3531 22nd St., said he had yet to see any conclusive data on how Edison would be affected, but he did not think it would be a major

change.

"Possibly they will begin phasing out our Bayview-Hunters Point attendance areas, and send us children from a closer neighborhood," he said. "But whatever the change, we'll work with the kids we get."

Of 419 children enrolled, about 197 are bused to Edison, he said. But an increasing number of students are enrolled through the Optional Enrollment Program. "People are starting to hear good things about us," he said. "Most of the kids being signed up through OER are from Noe Valley and the Mission."

In Alvarado's case, the effects of rezoning are expected to be more dramatic. Currently, the school has 385 students, said Principal Leigh, with about 15 percent coming from Noe Valley and between 60 and 70 percent bused in from other areas. The remaining are students driven to school by their parents.

According to Leigh, the original district plan called for eliminating busing of students from the Inner Mission (closer to downtown), but extending the school's neighborhood attendance boundaries into the part of the Mission just east of Noe Valley. The assumption was that Alvarado might lose certain Hispanic students now bused from the Inner Mission, but gain others living closer to the school.

"If there are more Latino families living in this area now, they are not new

immigrants whose first language is Spanish," noted Leigh, however. "That would drastically change our bilingual program. We need to maintain Alvarado as a bilingual cluster school."

Geneva Towers' Kids Welcome to Stay

Another issue that will greatly affect Alvarado is the scheduled June closing of Geneva Towers, two low-income high-rises located in the Bayview-Hunters Point area. Most of Alvarado's African-American students currently arrive on buses from Geneva Towers, and the district has made no plans to include black children from other neighborhoods.

"The new plan now is that we have been reassigned the Inner Mission, and we are working on a busing plan to allow children who have come from Geneva Towers and are forced to move to other places in the city to continue attending Alvarado," said Leigh.

Students from the Western Addition and Diamond Heights will also be assigned to Alvarado, which will help to maintain the school's racial diversity.

But Kathleen Richards, president of Alvarado's PTA and a Geneva Towers resident, is afraid that providing busing for 80-plus Geneva Towers children, from wherever they move in the city, may be unworkable.

"I have not seen any specific proposal of how they plan to offer transportation to kids who plan to continue at Alvarado," she said.

"My daughter's in the fifth grade, and this is upsetting for her," said Richards. "I want her to be able to graduate with her class."

If busing is not available, Richards imagines she might have to repeat the same routine she did with an older daughter when school boundaries were changed and Richards decided it was in the girl's best interest to continue at the same elementary school.

"I don't have a car, so I'd go with her on public transit every morning and pick her up every afternoon. It took four trips," said Richards. "It takes a lot of time, and is a lot of wear and tear on a person."

As of January, Richards was still uncertain about whether she would be able to find housing in San Francisco. "Housing is the number-one issue on people's minds here, and after that is resolved, they will be able to look at the school issue."

Richards says she understands the desire of many people to make San Francisco's elementary schools more neighborhood-oriented. "Most parents would like their kids to walk to school," she said. "Believe me, I have memories of getting up in the dark and putting my older daughter on a bus to go to kindergarten in a neighborhood where I'd never even been before. I could have been sending her to the moon."

There were often instances of the bus to Alvarado being late, and Richards even had the horrifying experience of having the bus arrive home from school without her 5-year-old daughter on it. "The driver had let some of the kids off somewhere else, and we didn't know where," she said. "That's why we have the bus monitor program now," she added.

Even though busing is not an ideal solution, Richards thinks it has been the best solution available for many families.

"Ideally, we should be able to send our kids a few blocks away, and they would get the best possible education. But we

all know that is not reality," she said. "If our government could find a way to give everyone an equal shot as far as education goes, it would be a different story."

As for the scheduled busing changes, Richards has yet to get a straight story. "If you call one office at the district, you get one answer. If you call another office, you get another answer as to what's going on," she said.

"And from what I've heard, it just doesn't make sense. They're cutting one route, which is long, and leaving another that's just as long. How did they come up with this strategy?" posed Richards.

"Eventually they say they will eliminate all busing in elementary schools, but will keep the racial balance that by law must be kept. It's mind-boggling."

Alvarez says she wants to put to rest the rumor that busing will be eliminated completely. "For one thing, our city's neighborhoods are not fully integrated," she said. "For another, some neighborhoods don't have enough schools for all of the children."

Alvarado Up, With or Without Busing

By a court-ordered consent decree, no racial or ethnic group may constitute more than 45 percent of enrollment at any neighborhood school or 40 percent at any alternative school. Additionally, every school must contain students from at least four ethnic backgrounds.

Andy Grimstad, a Noe Valley resident and chair of Alvarado's recruitment committee, recognizes that children benefit from exposure to kids of different backgrounds.

"If my daughter is to have the experience of going to school with a diversity of students that reflects San Francisco, it will be at a school with at least some busing," Grimstad points out.

According to Principal Leigh, Grimstad is one of many neighborhood parents who "took the plunge" and sent their children to Alvarado in the past five years.

She is certain that more would choose Alvarado if only they took the time to visit the school. "Many neighborhood parents choose private schools. Some of them because of busing, some because of a bias towards the population bused in, some because of a perception that education here is not as high quality as it used to be," said Leigh.

"But they didn't make the choice because they'd come to see our program. If they did, maybe they'd stay."

Leigh does support the district's efforts to expand the Optional Enrollment Program, and hopes that Alvarado's diversity and Spanish bilingual program will attract families from every racial and ethnic background.

And Grimstad reports that even without the scheduled bus and attendance area changes, Alvarado has seen an increase in local kids among its ranks. "This past year, word has gotten out that Alvarado is a good school," he said.

"We've got quite a few parents who have chosen Alvarado through the Optional Enrollment Request and drive their kids from places like Bernal Heights and Glen Park. We also have kids coming from Potrero Hill and the Inner Sunset," he said. There is even one child who comes in from 42nd Avenue.

"It's gotten to the point where we have a parking problem in the morning," said Grimstad. "Parents now know that this is a school to come look at." □

Mudslide a Sticky Issue for Noe Street Residents

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damage to a back bedroom and closet.

They immediately called 911. When the Fire Department responded, they strongly urged Parrillo and Rego to evacuate the premises.

The firefighters also expressed concern that the 22-unit apartment complex at 4130 Army St., which sits directly atop the hill above Parrillo and Rego's cottage, might be unstable. They notified Willis Management, which manages the apartment building.

Parrillo and Rego decided to spend the rest of the night in a local motel, but they couldn't sleep for worrying. Would a second mudslide completely destroy the house they had been renting for the past six months? Would they lose their life's possessions, which were still in the house? And where were they going to come up with the money for motel rooms, meals, and other expenses incurred while they were forced to live away from home?

The next day they reached Andy Mehiel, who works for Hawthorne/Stone Property Management and oversees 1344 Noe St. for its out-of-town owner, Diana Everson. Mehiel offered to help Parrillo and Rego find a new place, and to pay for the cost of a motel room for up to two weeks.

Mehiel also contacted Everson's insurance company, which then hired Rogers-Pacific Engineers and Geologists to inspect the site. (The Pleasant Hill engineering firm was the same firm that investigated the apartment house which was sliding off Telegraph Hill a couple of years back.)

According to Rogers-Pacific engineer John Halliday, the mudslide was composed of "Franciscan Assemblage chert and shale rocks, [which] toppled off a 30-foot cut slope behind 1344 Noe." In layman's terms, "a small portion of the hill failed during heavy rainfall."

The 30-foot cut in the rocky slope behind Parrillo and Rego's cottage, Halliday explained, was typical of construction done around the turn of the century. Because these kinds of slopes are common

around here, he added, "we've had a dozen such problems in the Bay Area in January, and we probably will continue to see failures due to increased rains."

That news is disturbing to Bob Levenson, a neighbor who lives atop the hill at 1315 Army St. He couldn't help but ask the question on the minds of many local residents: "How secure is my house?"

San Francisco Fire Chief Scott Peoples said despite San Francisco's hilliness, he hadn't seen "too many of these incidents [mudslides] in the city." But it was only the second week of January, and the storms of '95 showed no signs of abating.

As soon as the rains subside, said Halliday, the huge boulder in Parrillo and Rego's back yard will be broken up with sledgehammers and carted away. Then, to prevent future slides, "we will attempt to determine the proper mitigation [repairs] for rock fall hazard," he said.

The engineers and insurance companies will also try to determine who is liable for damages from the mudslide. At press time, it was still unclear whether the part of the hill that "failed" was situated on the Noe Street property or that of the apartment complex. There was even some speculation that it belonged to the city, which owns the grassy knoll above where Army Street dead-ends at Noe.

Parrillo and Rego's next-door neighbor, John Proetto, who has lived at 1338 Noe St. for 16 years, remains apprehensive. "I heard from other neighbors that there were rockslides when they first put up that apartment building," Proetto said.

Nevertheless, the building he was referring to—the 22-unit complex at 4130 Army—was given a clean bill of health by soil engineers hired by Willis Management the day after the slide.

Although Proetto offered to temporarily house Parrillo and Rego, he fears his own house could be in danger too. The reason he didn't evacuate, he says, is because "we wanted to be around in case anything happened. Someone offered us accommodations in Guerneville, but look what's happening there!" (After a week of torrential rains, the towns along the Russian River had been declared a disaster area.)

Meanwhile, Parrillo and Rego continued to pray for sun. "We love the house and would like to stay if the hill can be fixed," Parrillo said. "Whatever happens," he added, "it's not likely we will forget that night." □

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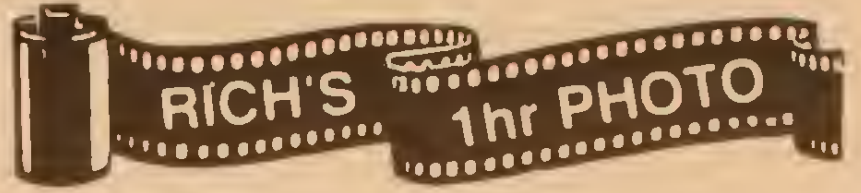


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School Kids Say Rainy-Day Policy Is All Wet

By Laura McHale Holland

The refrain "rain, rain, go away," sung by children for generations, took on new dimensions Jan. 3, 1995, when the city's Recreation and Park Department notified 23 public schools that due to budget cut-backs, it would no longer operate its after-school recreation program on rainy days.

The result was that in the first two weeks of January—during the infamous "Floods of '95"—the 3½-hour program was washed out all but one day.

This development particularly dampened the spirits of children, parents, and staff at Alvarado Elementary School, on Douglass near 22nd Street. They view Rec and Park's drop-in program—which is supervised by two adults who oversee activities both on the school grounds and in the cafeteria—as an integral part of the educational experience.

"We have a computer class that goes from 2:00 until 3:00 and Girl Scouts two days a week at the same time. We have tutoring for children from 2:00 to 2:45 and many after-school events," says Sandra Leigh, Alvarado's principal.

"We have a 3:30 bus and a 5:00 bus that takes children from school to Visitation Valley and the Mission. The Rec and Park program covers the yard and activities from 2:00 until 5:30. It's all connected. And it's not just a yard program. We have a huge cafeteria, so that when it rains, the kids go inside, and they have arts and crafts and other kinds of activities," she adds.

San Francisco's superintendent of recreation, Joel Robinson, says his department's rainy-day policy is actually over 20 years old and that his budget is predicated on the assumption that certain facilities will not operate on rainy days. He maintains that Alvarado School has not been affected in the past because he has not had to implement the rainy-day

policy until now.

"What happened this year," explains Robinson, "is that we have been hit with some additional labor costs. The city used to pick up the cost when employees got raises and when their fringe benefits increased, but now it's being passed along to the department."

"If we continue to spend at our current level, we will basically run out of money before the end of the fiscal year. This would mean a complete shutdown of our programs. So what we are trying to do is prudently reduce our spending, maintain as many programs as we can, and impact our services as little as possible."

However, a policy that made sense back in the days when most children could dash home from their neighborhood park for some milk and cookies with Mom if it started to rain, doesn't hold water in today's climate. The majority of mothers are more likely to be at their office computer in the afternoon than they are to be at home in the kitchen.

The rainy-day policy may be a fiscal life jacket, but it knocks the wind out of the children's sails. It also docks the paychecks of Alvarado's Rec and Park staffers, Debora Howard and Bill Lawrence, who don't know from day to day whether they'll have a job that afternoon.

"Children are even more needy on those days when it's raining," says Leigh. "A large number of their parents are working. The kids can't go home. They can't hang out on the streets. Where can they go?"

Leigh adds that "Rec and Park has no idea how much money they're saving because they can't predict how much it's going to rain. If it's sunny from now to the end of the year, they have to pay these people. They have to figure it out, but it's the needs of the children of the city that have to come first."

Fifth-grader Max Norton, president of Alvarado's student council, is not about

to let the city rain on his parade. He and his classmates are spending their lunch and recess time, as well as periods before and after school, collecting signatures on a petition asking Rec and Park to reinstate the program.

"Last week we sent 55 signatures to the Board of Supervisors, the Board of Education, Joel Robinson, Mary Burns [general manager of Rec and Park], and the mayor. We have collected 73 more since then, and we'll send those, too," he reports.

Alvarado's students are also writing a letter to the recipients of the petition, and encouraging adults they know to attend school board and other meetings so they can shore up support for their cause.

As of late January, this cloud had no silver lining, however. Robinson suggested that the school district might chip in some money or that parents might volunteer to supervise after-school activities on rainy days.

Leigh wondered whether Proposition J funds might be allocated to the program or whether the mayor might sell some of his 49er tickets and give the money to Rec and Park.

Meanwhile, Max Norton and his fellow students see a clear solution: "Have the after-school program open even when it rains, just like it was before." □

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Muni to Install Wheelchair Ramps on Church Street

By Larry Beresford

The San Francisco Municipal Railway plans to build two sets of handicapped-accessible ramps in Noe Valley, both along the J-Church streetcar line.

Neighborhood groups, while not exactly up in arms over the proposal, have been negotiating with Muni to try to mitigate the loss of parking and the impact on Church Street merchants from the new ramps.

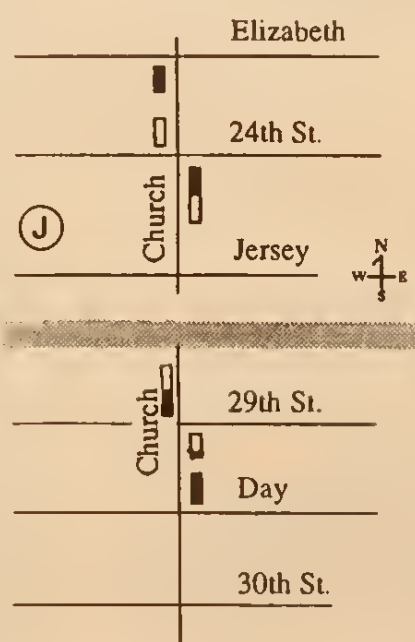
As part of its "Key Stops" project, Muni will be adding 15 sets of boarding platforms (inbound and outbound) at surface streetcar stops, in order to meet the requirements of the national Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), passed in 1990.

The ramps, running 30 to 70 feet in length depending on the lay of the land, cost \$200,000 each. Based on ridership surveys, the J-line ramps on Church Street will be located near current transfer points at 24th and 30th streets, as well as at 18th Street (in Dolores Park) and the intersections of Church with Market and Duboce.

The streetcar platforms, which will resemble those recently built on Upper Market Street and at Randall and San Jose, feature gradually sloping ramps up to a platform designed for use by wheelchair users and other passengers with mobility impairments. All other passengers would board the streetcar at the base of the ramp.

Muni Metro Key Stops Project Proposed New Key Stops

- Location of wheelchair-accessible boarding platform
- Location of boarding island for able-bodied



For passengers waiting on the raised platform or wanting to exit the streetcar onto the platform, the operator will make a separate stop at the platform and raise the streetcar's steps to the level of its floor.

This separate stop "will take a few more seconds, but not that many," says Muni Community Affairs spokesperson Hannah Silverman, adding that it is hard to predict how often the raised ramp will be utilized.

To present this project to Noe Valley, Muni staff met with the leaders of neighborhood groups in November, then held a public meeting at Bethany Church on



Muni will install four wheelchair ramps, similar to this one at Market and Noe streets, in Noe Valley by 1996. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD.

Dec. 6. An additional meeting was held Dec. 15 to address concerns specific to the 30th Street platforms, which likely will be located just north of Day Street (inbound) and 29th Street (outbound).

"The plans are not finalized yet," Silverman said in mid-January. "We're still putting them through review here, and we have also been working with St. Paul's Church, which was not represented at the community meetings."

Eventual approval is also required from the Department of Parking and Transportation (DPT) and the Board of Supervisors.

If things go according to schedule, construction in Noe Valley would start late this year or early in 1996. The entire project must be completed by the end of 1996, Silverman said.

Meanwhile, the Upper Noe Neighbors, Friends of Noe Valley, and the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, jointly represented by Janice Gendreau of Upper Noe Neighbors, have asked Muni to retain as much Church Street parking and sidewalk space as possible under the plan.

Gendreau says the three groups are also working to ensure that Church Street merchants don't suffer a reduction in visibility and customers' access to their shops.

"We're not opposed to the platforms," she said. "The main thing is that they will take up a lot of parking spaces. So we're proposing a number of mitigations that everyone in the neighborhood could agree with."

The groups are exploring the feasibility

of adding angled parking to Noe or Sanchez streets in the blocks surrounding 24th Street. They are also lobbying for more 30-minute parking meters along outer Church Street, and possibly diagonal parking on a side street.

In addition, Gendreau said, the residents want Muni to fund new windows and a door on the Day Street side of the MikeyTom Market, to replace its current sidewalk seating on Church Street, which would be sacrificed to the proposed platform.

Tom Maravilla, a co-owner of MikeyTom, says the ramp and platform would obstruct pedestrians' view of his storefront window. "The construction will have a very negative impact on our business, if not done correctly and quickly," Maravilla adds. "I think there probably is a solution, and if Muni adopts Janice's proposal, I would not be opposed."

Silverman concurs with Gendreau that "the project's biggest concern is parking," since each platform is situated on an island in the middle of the street, and the new traffic lane next to the curb could wipe out two or three metered parking spaces. "Muni is willing to look at various parking replacement proposals, and we've been exploring some of our own. But I don't know whether we would be able to provide one-for-one replacement of parking spaces."

"San Francisco is a transit-first city, by resolution of the Board of Supervisors," she continued, "and streetcar streets are designated as transit preferential. We will continue to work with neighborhood

groups, but we must also meet ADA and Muni operating requirements."

The project also includes improvements to existing handicapped-accessible surface and underground stations, as well as those on the planned F-line streetcar route, slated to start service in October along Market Street from Castro to the Transbay Terminal.

The San Francisco Art Commission will be reviewing platform designs and helping to find artists to design patterns for the ramps' side walls.

As for the J-line platforms, Silverman said Muni probably would hold another meeting with neighborhood leaders in the first week of February. After that, the next step would be to schedule hearings with the Department of Public Works for the sidewalk changes and DPT for the parking and traffic changes.

"We need to schedule those hearings as soon as possible," because of the deadline imposed by ADA, she said. For more information on the Key Stops program, contact Silverman at 923-6160. □

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Republicans Come out of the Fog

By Steve Steinberg

Sitting in his 24th Street realty office, surrounded by photographs of Republican presidents and other Republican Party memorabilia, Harry Aleo is a happy man, a vindicated man.

"It's about time we had a change in this country," Aleo says, speaking of the November 1994 election, in which the Republicans took control of both houses of Congress for the first time in 40 years.

Jerry Holstein, co-owner of J & S Barbering at 1185 Church St., says he felt "ecstatic" about the election results. "The Republicans had a stated agenda that really appealed to the people."

Another local Republican, Tom Collins, a retired plumbing contractor who lives on San Jose Avenue and twice ran for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors back in the 1960s, was also elated after the Republican victory. "I felt overwhelmingly great. I felt good all over."

Perhaps because it hasn't always been that easy to be a card-carrying Republican in Noe Valley, these local residents reacted strongly and emotionally to the Republican upset.

Let's face it, it's tough belonging to a conservative group, while living in one of the most liberal neighborhoods in what is arguably the most liberal city in the United States.

"Republicans have been afraid to speak their views," says Aleo. Mike Uland, a Sanchez Street resident and former vice president of the San Francisco Young Republicans, remembers that he "often felt lonely at voting time."

But things may be changing for local conservatives. Political ideas that some people felt had to be concealed are suddenly the dominant political currency.

"The election showed that the vast majority of the sane people in this country know what they are doing," said Aleo.

According to local Republicans, what the electorate wants and needs is a smaller, more efficient government. "More federal money needs to be distributed to local governments to be handled on the local level," says Uland, who was the 1985 national Young Republican of the Year.

"The net result of a streamlined [federal] government," he continues, "will be that taxpayers' money is spent more efficiently."

According to Uland, Republicans are better suited than Democrats to manage



Tom Collins (left) admires Mike Uland's letter of congratulations from President Ronald Reagan for being chosen 1985 Young Republican of the Year. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

the government because they are "better at business."

Collins was more blunt in his assessment of the Democrats' performance. "They just don't have the knowledge to run the country." He also called the Democrats "too corrupt" and said they were associated with voter fraud. "Fraud gave the [U.S. Senate] election to Dianne Feinstein," he alleged.

Republicans also give the new Republican-controlled Congress the moral edge. Holstein says it stands a better chance of restoring "traditional values" of right and wrong.

Aleo hopes the new Congress will try to change the pornography laws and "get us back on the right moral track." He also thinks the new members will restrict foreign aid, or the "foreign giveaway," as he calls it. "We should use the money in this country where it's needed."

Not all of these Noe Valley Republicans started their voting lives with the Grand Old Party. Collins used to be a Democrat, but changed his affiliation in the 1960s because of perceived Democratic corruption.

Likewise, Holstein viewed himself as a "liberal Democrat" in the 1970s, until he began to see a lot of "wasted money" in government-funded programs, particularly the drug treatment program he was involved with. The Democrats also fostered too great a reliance on government to solve problems, rather than urging people to stand on their own two feet, Holstein maintains.

Uland says he votes for a Democrat on occasion, depending on the person's views and qualifications. He "reluctantly" voted for Michael Huffington in the November election, only because he had always disliked Feinstein. "I just have a different viewpoint than the majority of San Franciscans," he says.

Huffington received only 830 votes out of the 9,000 cast in Noe Valley in the U.S. Senate race.

Local conservatives are placing varying degrees of faith in the Republican-sponsored Contract with America, the national agenda set forth by Republican leaders shortly before the election.

The Contract includes such potentially revolutionary measures as a balanced budget amendment, a line-item veto for the president, welfare reform, and term limits for U.S. senators and representatives.

Most Democrats oppose the Contract because of the adverse financial impact it could have on many federal programs and entitlements.

Aleo says the majority of the Contract's provisions can and should be passed. "Republicans should stick with their agenda and follow the wishes of the American people, if they want to maintain control over Congress beyond two years."

Holstein also believes that the Contract is feasible, but that the Republicans should realize there's "not a lot of room for compromise."

Holding a less optimistic view of the

Contract's chances, Uland believes special interest groups and lobbyists will try to whittle down its provisions and cause the same problems for Republicans as they did for Democrats.

Still, Uland is hopeful about the balanced budget amendment, perhaps the showpiece of the Contract. The amendment will work, he says, "if everyone is willing to sacrifice."

Speaking of sacrifice, how do local Republicans think San Francisco might be affected by the huge federal spending cuts the Republicans have promised?

Uland expects city funds to be cut back, which, in neighborhoods like Noe Valley, could translate into cuts in park and recreation programs. On the other hand, Uland adds, for as long as the Democrats controlled Congress, San Francisco received a "disproportionate" share of federal funding for things like arts, education, and inner-city programs.

Collins also thinks the city won't get as much money from Washington, even though "we need money for jobs and education."

But he also believes that what we get from Washington doesn't really matter, since "the Board of Supervisors is giving the city away" in terms of the debt it creates.

In Aleo's opinion, San Francisco also is due for Congressional "revenge" when it comes to defense jobs because of the city's anti-military past. "The city will be the number-one choice for cutting defense-related jobs."

Finally, how do local members of the GOP feel about their new standard bearer, Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich? "I think he'll do something," says Uland. "He's an activist and a strong leader."

"I think he's great," says Aleo unhesitatingly.

Collins likes Gingrich too, but warns, "He will need to keep his mouth shut a bit."

Holstein is a Newt fan as well, and is glad he's not alone.

"There are a lot more conservatives out there than most San Franciscans would like to believe." □

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The Flagship Organization for Parents of Lesbians and Gays

By Karen Topakian

"We love our children just the way they are," says Noe Valley resident Lynn Nelson. Nelson is the mother of a gay son, Christopher, and publicist for the San Francisco chapter of PFLAG, which stands for Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. "How can you find something unchristian about that? It's about love and acceptance."

Nelson, an artist, teacher, and the mother of three, has told everyone, including President Bill Clinton, how proud she is of 22-year-old Christopher. Before Clinton's inauguration, she wrote him a letter urging him to support gay and lesbian rights.

"My son came out in June 1992," she wrote. "He has given me a gift. Not only are my heart and eyes open to another truth, but he has given me a wake-up call. I have been sitting on my white middle-class fanny saying I believe in equal rights. My son is the same fine young man he was live minutes before he told me he was gay—he hasn't changed. I was the one who had to take a look at myself and my own prejudice."

Few parents, notes Nelson, feel proud, or even comfortable when they first learn that their daughter or son is homosexual.

"I'll never forget the day Chris told me he was gay," she says. "It was between his sophomore and junior year. He was on break from Brown University. We decided to make dinner together, but he was very quiet, not his usual chitchatty self. He's usually energetic and has a wonderful sense of humor. He wasn't eating much, either."

"Then at one point in the conversation he said, 'Mom, I have something exciting to tell you.' But he said it in a monotone. I said, 'You don't sound very excited.' Then he said, 'Mom, I'm gay.'"

"At that moment, I had an 'aha!' experience. It seemed to fit. Then fear gripped my stomach. I thought he wouldn't have equal rights. People would hash him. But I got up and hugged him. We hugged for a long time, and I told him I loved him."

PFLAG's roots go back to another such epiphany, this time for a mother in New York. At the city's 1972 Gay Pride March, a woman named Jeanne Manford joined the march in open support of her gay son. The crowd's enthusiastic response to her action—and to the sign she carried, which read, "Parents of Gays: Unite in Support of Our Children"—spurred a wave of solidarity that eventually led to the formation of PFLAG in



Lynn Nelson invites people of any stripe to join her at monthly support groups sponsored by PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). PHOTO BY NAJIB JOE HAKIM

Los Angeles in 1981.

The organization now represents more than 27,000 families, in 350 chapters all over the world, who are concerned about society's negative attitudes toward their gay, lesbian, and bisexual loved ones. The members' goal is to give each other support through education, information, and advocacy, and then to extend that support to society at large.

"For parents whose child has just come out, the first thing they feel is fear," says Nelson, "from fear of AIDS to fear of the neighbors knowing. Most parents also go through mourning the death of the child they thought they had, then they see their child for who he or she is. The adjustment could take months or years."

"Attending PFLAG meetings lets people know they are not alone," she adds. The San Francisco chapter meets the second Sunday of the month, 2 to 4 p.m., at St. Francis Lutheran Church. PFLAG also offers a help line, a speakers bureau, and workshops and trainings.

The regular PFLAG meetings are the members' emotional mainstay, however. "We break up into small groups to tell our stories in the first hour," Nelson explains. PFLAG also designates at least one of its small groups for friends and family members who have come to the group after learning that their loved one has AIDS. "It's a safe place to share your fears. It's very loving," says Nelson.

During the second hour, speakers from organizations such as LYRIC (Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center) or GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Discrimination) address the whole group.

The meetings are open not only to parents, but to all members of the gay community. Gay teens without parental support often attend, Nelson says. So do men in their 40s and 50s who have not come out to their families but "miss the family dynamic."

Since she started doing publicity two years ago, one thing Nelson is most proud of is the success of PFLAG's 1994 convention, "Bridges to Equality," which was held in San Francisco on Labor Day weekend. Over 1,000 people, representing the United States and five foreign countries, attended the event.

But membership in PFLAG is not as representative as Nelson would like. "There is diversity in the children, but some cultures such as Latino, Asian, or African-American don't allow airing of their laundry," she says. "They are ashamed and stay home."

And PFLAG often has difficulty finding spokespersons because of such cultural taboos. "We have an Asian man as a spokesperson who won't be on television or be photographed, but will go on the radio and use his first name," says Nelson. "You can be as active as you want, but unless the whole family is positive or supportive or out, it's hard to be a spokesperson."

One of Nelson's current projects is coordinating PFLAG's activities with the San Francisco Unified School District.

"PFLAG goes into the middle and high

schools every three years (as the student body rotates) to talk about gay, lesbian, and bisexual issues," says Nelson. The group also sees to it that library books in the elementary schools reflect a diversity of families.

Nelson and other members of PFLAG also contact the parent and teachers' associations, asking to speak to their members and schools. But she encounters resistance at times, "because they think we're trying to convince their children to be gay."

"You'd think San Francisco would be gay-friendly, but there's a lot of homophobia," she points out. "There's still a social stigma." She believes homophobia could be reduced if parents were educated sooner—for example, in the doctor's office. "No one told me when I brought my baby into the pediatrician's office that I had a 10 percent chance of having a gay or lesbian child," she notes.

In the meantime, she'll continue to defend the rights of gays and the people who love them. "The people I am with now are open-minded, accepting. I don't have time for people who don't believe in equal rights. We shouldn't be afraid to stand up and say who we are."

This month's meeting of the San Francisco chapter of PFLAG will take place Sunday, Feb. 12, starting at 2 p.m., at St. Francis Church, 152 Church St. For more information, call the PFLAG help line at 921-8850. □

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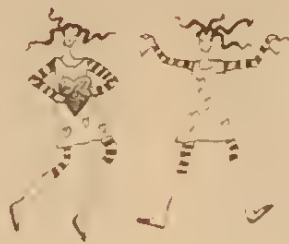
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Holey Bagel Helps Ministry Raise Dough at Town Halls

By Michele Lynn

Holey Bagel, Inc., and the Noe Valley Ministry will co-sponsor a series of public forums, "Building Community Under One Roof," to be held in February and March at the Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Says Karen Heather, administrative director at the church, "The point of the seminars is to talk about how people in Noe Valley see this community. Do we have the same definitions and attachments when it comes to issues?"

"Are we as diverse as we think we are? We will look at these questions in the context of specific issues, such as busing." (See this month's story on school busing, page 1.)

Marth Beckett, the director of community involvement for the Holey Bagel stores, adds, "We are inviting people together so that they can meet each other and enrich and empower our community." She points out that a major share of the proceeds will be donated to the Ministry's "Hold on to the Roof" fundraising campaign.

The kickoff will be on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 1 to 3 p.m., with a forum titled "Mixed Bag." Neighborhood residents are encouraged to join a lively discussion on education, ethnicity, busing, gender, you name it.

"Dough Day," on Saturday, March 4, from 1 to 3 p.m., will give participants an opportunity to create dough figures under the guidance of renowned sculptor and neighborhood resident Ruth Asawa. "We will use our clay figures as a visual avenue to bring ourselves into a common



Marth Beckett of Holey Bagel and Karen Heather of the Noe Valley Ministry (right) have cooked up a series of forums on neighborhood diversity, to be held this month and next.
PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

light," says Beckett.

On Saturday, March 18, also from 1 to 3 p.m., a community fair called "What's in the Bag?" will bring together a wide range of neighborhood businesses, schools, and nonprofit organizations. Each organization will give a brief presentation on what it does; then the gathering will explore how to form partnerships.

The final forum will be an evening get-together on Friday, March 31, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Beckett describes this event as a roundtable discussion on "strategies for change, such as the establishment of ad hoc committees, specific proj-

ects, and programs that will address the challenges and concerns of the Noe Valley community. Plus, it's a good chance for people to socialize," she notes.

Bagels and other goodies will be served at each forum. The suggested contribution for each seminar is \$4, although all are welcome, regardless of ability to pay.

Beckett says the Noe Valley forums are the first in a number of "breaducation" efforts planned by Holey Bagel, which currently operates seven stores in the Bay Area, including the original Holey Bagel shop on 24th Street founded 15 years ago.

Holey Bagel approached the Ministry, she said, because it recognized the church's unique role as a community center. "We hope to help raise money and encourage other businesses to be involved in community building—not only with the community building [the Ministry roof needs an overhaul], but in community building in Noe Valley."

To spur contributions, Holey Bagel is offering a dozen free bagels to anyone who donates \$120 to the Ministry's Building Fund. A contribution of \$500 will bring a dozen bagels for three holidays of the donor's choice.

Another of Holey Bagel's hot projects, Beckett says, is to "adopt" James Lick Middle School on Noe Street, and work with the students on creative dough projects. The bakery also plans to develop a children's book that will "look at the breads of various cultures, and examine what bread means to our bodies, our cultures, and our lives," she said.

A 29th Street resident herself, Beckett hopes that Noe Valley residents will come out in force to attend the forums. "How can we build community without community members? That's what it's all about."

For more information, call Marth Beckett at 974-9071 or Karen Heather at the Ministry, 282-2317. Tickets to the forums will be available Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry, or daily, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., at the Noe Valley Holey Bagel, 3872 24th St. □

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Fire Stations Not Fit Yet

The renovation and seismic upgrading of Fire Station No. 11, on 26th Street between Church and Dolores, will take two months longer than originally planned.

The work began last April and was scheduled to be completed by the end of 1994. Now, according to Fire Department spokesperson Captain Bill Shore, the project is scheduled for completion by April 1.

In the meantime, the station's engine company is working out of the Holly Park Fire Station in Bernal Heights, and the truck company is assigned to the station at 19th and Folsom streets.

Noe Valley's other fire station, No. 24 on Hoffman near Alvarado Street, is slated for renovation beginning in May 1995. We'll keep you posted, but try not to let sparks fly.

St. Luke's Keeps Doors Open

St. Luke's Hospital would like to announce that it has not altered any of its procedures for receiving or treating patients in the wake of the passage of Proposition 187 last November.

Hospital spokesperson Sue Noyes says, "St. Luke's is continuing its business practices exactly as it did before the election, and anyone needing our medical services will not be asked any questions that were not part of our routine before November 8."

She noted that the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles issued a temporary restraining order against Prop. 187 on Nov. 16, and instructed the state not to publish any plans for its implementation. The measure sought to deprive illegal immigrants of access to certain public services in California.

St. Luke's Hospital is located on the corner of Valencia and Army streets. The hospital's emergency room is open 24 hours a day, and St. Luke's Neighborhood Clinic, 1580 Valencia St., is open on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For information about hospital admissions procedures, call 641-6657. For information about the clinic, call 641-6500.

Smoking Ban Kicks In

"Would you like non-smoking or non-smoking?" That's the question (or non-question) waiters now pose to their customers, since the city's ban on smoking in restaurants and enclosed workplaces went into effect Jan. 1.

In the eating category, the only exceptions to the rule are restaurants with bars, which may allow smoking in the bar area only.

Some local restaurants, like Panos' Restaurant at 24th and Noe, were smokeless to begin with, so they didn't give the new law a second thought.

"We were the first Noe Valley restaurant to go the no-smoking route over two years ago," says Panos' owner Vi Gianaras.

Other Noe Valley restaurants seem to be taking things in stride. "It's worked

SHORT TAKES



The firehouse on Hoffman will be closed for renovations in May. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

out okay for us," says Nancy Emery, bar manager at Noe's Bar and Grill at 24th and Church. "We've been able to accommodate smokers in our bar area," and the eating area is in a separate room.

Rita Santos, a waitress at Haystack Pizza, notes that most of Haystack's customers, as well as the employees, prefer non-smoking anyway. "We have no troubles anymore about making two separate areas," she says, "and no more complaints from non-smokers."

The same thing goes at Noe Valley Pizza, across the street at 24th and Sanchez. "Everything's fine. Customers are happier," says manager Adam Bousiakos. "We used to try to separate smokers from non-smokers by two or three booths, but now we don't need to. The smokers can just step outside, and they're very nice about it."

At Herb's Fine Foods, which is now smokefree, waitress Shellie Occhipinti says, "It used to be about 50-50. Half of our customers and waitresses smoked, and half didn't. I had a lot of grumpy people the first couple of weeks [after the ban], but not so much now."

"I'm enjoying it myself," she adds. "People aren't hanging out and talking as much on the weekends, so my turnover is greater, and I pull in \$10 a day more in tips."

If you have questions about ban, or want to report a violation, call the Department of Public Health at 554-9151.

PWAs Need You

If you'd like to carry out that New Year's resolution to "do unto others," February is a good time to sign up as an AIDS volunteer. Four organizations are seeking more people to provide support for PWAs (People With AIDS), and to help in hospice programs.

The Shanti Project is looking for volunteers to provide practical and emotional assistance for AIDS sufferers. Due to the growing number of people with HIV/AIDS in San Francisco, Shanti currently has a waiting list of more than 150 clients.

Volunteers commit to an average of six hours per week for six months. They also are welcome to attend twice-monthly support groups.

The next Shanti training is scheduled for Feb. 3-5, 11, and 12. To register, call Thomas Knoble at 864-CARE.

A one-day workshop on "Learning the Art of Give and Take" will be presented by Kairos Support for Caregivers on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The workshop will feature dramatic presentations by actors from Life Theater, followed by discussion and role-playing exercises.

The workshop is limited to 40 participants (20 caregivers and their partners), and advance registration is required. A \$40 donation is suggested, but any por-

tion is appreciated. For more information call 861-0877.

The Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group, in conjunction with HIV Services at St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Center, is also looking for volunteers to support people with AIDS. The next training is on Feb. 11 and 12, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For an application, call Jeff at 863-1581.

Last but not least, Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco is searching for volunteers to join with nurses, rehabilitation therapists, social workers, home care aides, chaplains, and bereavement counselors in providing hospice care and support to people with AIDS, cancer, and other serious illnesses.

Opportunities for service include patient companionship, errands and transportation, massage, and bereavement support. New hospice volunteers begin training Feb. 13. For further information call 750-6800, ext. 21699.

Preschool Panorama

It's Preschool Preview time again. This year's 40-school informational fair is scheduled for Feb. 9 at the Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park from 7 to 10 p.m.

Representatives from preschools in every neighborhood of the city—including the Noe Valley Nursery School on Sanchez Street, Children's Day School on Dolores Street, and Rocky Mountain Co-op on 15th Street—will be available to describe their programs and answer parents' questions.

"Choosing a preschool is one of the most important decisions parents of young children will make, and parents frequently have little information on which to base their decision," notes Ann Weinstein, director of Parents Place, the program that is hosting the event, along with *Peninsula Parent* magazine.

Weinstein will present a short talk at 7:30 p.m., to help parents sort out their priorities and learn what questions to ask and what to observe when they visit schools. Call Parents Place, 563-1041, if you would like to know more.

Dessert-Tasting Benefit

Are you ready to indulge yourself? If so, you should splurge on a ticket to the Noe Valley Nursery School's fourth annual Sweet Elegance Dessert and Champagne Tasting, to be held at the Noe Valley Ministry on Friday, March 3, from 8 to 11 p.m.

Last year's benefit drew hundreds of chocoholics and pastry lovers who wanted to sample the pies, cakes, cookies, ice cream, and truffles donated by the likes of Double Rainbow, Zanze's Cheesecake, Fran Gage, and Matfus Ice Cream.

The sea of sweets will be awaiting you in the Ministry's upstairs sanctuary. And if you want to raise more than your caloric intake, you can visit the silent auction downstairs, to benefit the Ministry's "Hold on to the Roof" campaign.

Continued on Page 19

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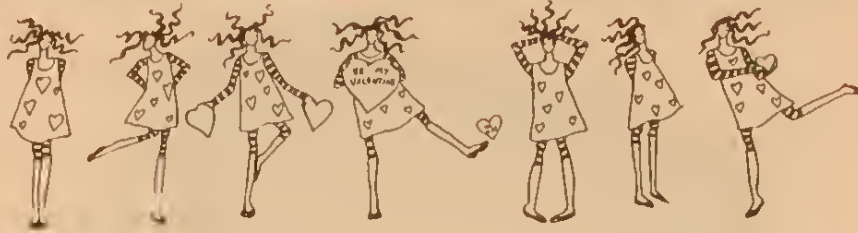
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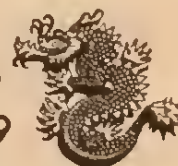
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Suspected Car Thief Tripped up by Just for Fun

By Officer Lois Perillo

The crew at Just for Fun, a gift shop at 3982 24th St., was on the job last month, and has won junior police officer status for the apprehension of two parolees who possessed weapons and stolen property.

Just for Fun employee Cheryl Brauner became suspicious of a woman who entered the store about 1 p.m. Jan. 4, and asked for a refund on some placecards from the shop's stationery section. The irregularity of returning such cards, which are almost exclusively purchased for a special event such as a wedding, caused Brauner to consult her boss, David Eiland.

Eiland remembered that he had sold the last of that specific card stock on Dec. 31, but ordered a fresh supply Jan. 1, for a woman who had called to say the cards she had originally purchased had been stolen along with her vehicle on New Year's Eve.

Eiland told Brauner to have the refund customer provide her name and address, while he notified police that an auto theft suspect was in his store. Meanwhile, a male companion briefly joined the woman suspect, before walking east on 24th Street.

While the staff at Just for Fun waited for the police, the woman stole merchandise and exited the store, activating the mag-tag alarm and causing worker Isaiah Carter to stop her.

I arrived with Officer Mike Phelan. We stopped the male suspect, who told us he was on parole. He was carrying pepper spray and a crack pipe.

Officer Bill Brunnicardi then arrived and detained the woman, who was also on parole. She had in her possession a 6-inch knife, some pepper spray, a crack pipe, and a Mazda valet key, which had been stolen in the auto theft. Police

POLICE BEAT

units searched Noe Valley and the suspects' home areas, but were unable to locate the car.

In addition to violating the terms of her parole by carrying weapons, the woman also had an outstanding parole violation warrant.

She was booked on three felony and four misdemeanor charges. The man was booked on two misdemeanor charges. Both were placed on parole holds and will most likely be returned to state prison after their hearings.

More Pats on the Back

Junior officer status also goes to the workers at a 24th and Church establishment for their quick response and detailed observation of a teenage graffiti suspect, who tagged the outside of a Muni bus on Dec. 12 at 3 p.m.

Their involvement was key to holding the 15-year-old boy and his parents accountable for his actions.

Another Graffiti Gotcha

Two Noe Valley men were nabbed by police officers Joe Engler and Andy McEachern on Nov. 22 at 2 a.m., after the officers saw them scrawl tags on private and public property on the 3900 block of 24th Street.

The 20-year-old Clipper Street suspect faces five counts of vandalism and opted for a jury trial on March 3 at 9 a.m. in Department 15 at 850 Bryant St.

The 18-year-old 24th Street suspect, who was also charged with five counts of vandalism, appears ready to plead no contest and make restitution. His hearing was scheduled for Jan. 25 in Department 15.

Nasty Man Flees Walgreen's

In late November, a female manager at the Noe Valley Walgreen's confronted a man who had previously been excluded from the store for shoplifting,

when he entered with an empty shopping bag and attempted to steal store merchandise. The man became angry, threatened the manager, and then broke the front door before fleeing, causing over \$400 in damage.

Walgreen's workers described the suspect as a white man, about 48 years old, 5-foot-2, 130 pounds, with a mustache, light brown shaggy hair over his ears, and a 1-inch round scar on his forehead. He has been seen with a companion, a white woman, also 48, 5-foot-8, stocky build with fine short brown hair, who frequently wears a beige raincoat and carries a black shoulder bag.

The man has been seen several times in the neighborhood and may be temporarily staying on Castro Street.

If you think you see him, check for the scar, which appeared to be a fresh wound at the time of the incident and should be fairly evident. Then call 553-0123 and ask to speak to an officer who can take an i.d. for a possible attempted burglary and vandalism suspect.

First Payback

About a year ago, the San Francisco District Attorney's Office introduced a program aimed at recouping losses for merchants who had received bad checks from customers.

Well, folks, David Kemer of the Treat Shop, on Castro near 24th, reports that he has actually received restitution from a customer as a result of this program. Has anyone else received a payback? Let me know.

While we're on the topic, I'd like to suggest that all Noe Valley businesses make and post a check-writing policy. Don't forget to establish a maximum amount.

Also, although calling the bank and getting a "funds available" advisement doesn't guarantee you'll see the money, at least you're eliminating a "closed account" risk by making that call.

SHORTS

Continued from Page 17

Tasters will be treated to live classical chamber music. And a \$10 ticket also includes champagne, tea, and coffee. For every ticket sold, the nursery school will donate \$1 to the roof fund.

Tickets may be purchased at the door, or in advance by calling 431-9205 or 285-4928. The Noe Valley Ministry is located at 1021 Sanchez St.

Another NERT Alert

The sixth and final meeting of the most recent training session for Noe Valley's Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m.

This free meeting is open not only to participants in the training, but to anyone who would like to sign up for the next training series or find out more about the program.

In the NERT trainings, San Francisco Fire Department representatives teach local residents basic earthquake and other emergency skills, such as first-aid, search and rescue, how to extinguish fires, and how to shut off gas and water valves.

NERT member Susan Stacks encourages Noe Valley merchants as well as residents to attend, in the hope that 24th and Church Street merchants will eventually organize a special merchants team.

If you would like to join the February meeting, which will be held at the home of Bill Kuhns, 4215 26th St., R.S.V.P. to Stacks at 648-8676 or call Kuhns at 826-2304. If you can't make this meeting but would like information about other NERT trainings around the city, call 861-8000.



Free Health Fair

The Mission Neighborhood Health Center, located at 240 Shotwell St., will hold its 19th annual community health fair on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Medical students from U.C. San Francisco, as well as other health professionals, will be on hand to provide free testing for tuberculosis, high blood pressure, diabetes, and HIV.

Limited physical examinations, dental screenings, and podiatry consultations will also be offered, as well as mammograms and instruction on self breast examination. (Appointments for mammograms must be made at least one week in advance by calling 552-3870, ext. 246.)

Information on AIDS prevention, lead poisoning, and other pertinent health topics will also be available.

The fair, which attracted 500 visitors last year, is co-sponsored by U.C.S.F.'s Chicanos and Latinos in Health Education.

Poetry at the '33'

As part of its monthly poetry series, Keane's 3300 Club will host readings by local poets James Alsop, Don Hills, Mark Neville, and Judy Stedman on Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. An open mike session will follow.

Admission is free and complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served at the "33," a landmark Irish pub located at 29th and Mission streets.

For more information about the poetry series, which is held on the last Tuesday of the month, or to order the bar's recently published anthology, *Poetry at the 33*, call Lee Hopkins at 824-0835.

A Multimedia Mixer

The first-ever meeting of Noe Valley United Productions—a group of Noe Valley residents involved in film, video, or entertainment—is slated to happen on Saturday, Feb. 11, from 4 to 6 p.m.

The meeting will be held at 88 28th St., home of organizer Christina Marie, an improvisational actress who wants local directors, writers, actors, entertainers, camera crew, and stagehands "to gather together and pool all the talent we have right in our own neighborhood."

Marie, who is writing a television pilot and currently works with Liquid Soap, "an interactive soap opera troupe," also envisions a multimedia group that will "learn about each other's projects and form friendships and working relationships."

"We have a lot of talent within our neighborhood," she says, "and I could see us putting projects together within our community."

For more details, call Marie at 824-1837.

This month's Short Takes were written by Jane Underwood, Jim Christie, and Emme Levine.

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Robberies, Burglaries Decline

Robberies in December (5) were half the number recorded in November (10). (Three of the November incidents ended in arrests.) That's an encouraging sign for the last month of the year, when we usually see an upswing.

There was no particular pattern to the robberies in December. Three occurred during darkness—a carjacking at Army and Guerrero streets, a robbery with a gun on the 800 block of Dolores, and a strongarm robbery at Sanchez and 26th.

Of the daytime robberies, one happened during the morning at 25th and Noe streets, and the other at 1 p.m. at 25th and Castro. Both involved juveniles.

The burglary stats were identical to the robbery stats: 10 in November and 5 in December. Of those 15, four resulted in the arrest of a suspect.

As for possible patterns, the "favored" days were Saturdays (5) and Mondays (3), but there were two each on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. All of the arrests were made during the morning hours on a weekend or holiday.

If you would like more specific information about protection from incidents such as these, or need help with the mediation of a dispute, give me a call at my new number: 558-5400.

Please note, as reported in the December issue, the Mission Police Station has moved. Our new station is at the southwest corner of Valencia and 17th, and parking is available on the 17th Street side of the building.

As we approach a new millennium, my thanks to all of you who've made a difference in our community. Have a grand 1995. Until next time, see you on patrol. □

Officer Lois Perillo is a community police officer working out of Mission Police Station, 630 Valencia St. Her beat centers on 24th Street and extends from 21st and Grand View to Army and Valencia streets. Noe Valley residents who live south of Army (soon to be Cesar Chavez Boulevard) fall within the Ingleside Police District. The community police officer line at Ingleside is 333-3433.

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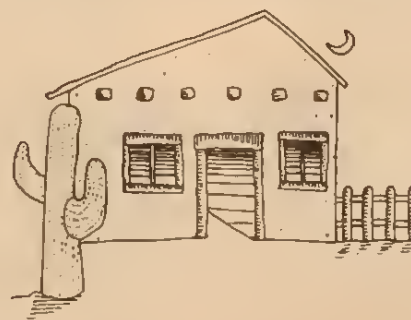
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Co-owner Marianne Spicknell enjoys sipping a cup of tea and peering out the painted windows in Lovejoy's, at Church and 24th. PHOTOS BY CHARLES KENNARD

By Pat Gregor

This month's new store lineup features an antique parlor where you can congregate for afternoon tea, a chocolate shop that promises to satisfy your deepest dessert cravings, and a coffeehouse that offers to donate two percent of profits to a good cause.

Lovejoy's Antiques and Tea Room
1195 Church St.
648-5845

A series of mysteries featuring fictional detective Lovejoy, the British sleuth who also loves antiques, inspired the name of Noe Valley's first combination antique store and tearoom.

Stepping into Lovejoy's Antiques and Tea Room, located at Church and 24th next door to Carroll's Books, is like walking into the parlor of one's great-aunt. The difference is that Lovejoy's isn't stuffy, and everything is for sale: chairs, tables, pictures, plates, teapots, cups, and saucers.

Owners Martin and Marianne Spicknell opened Lovejoy's in mid-January. The couple will have no problem keeping it filled with treasures because they also own M & M's Exchange, a used furniture and antique shop on Sanchez Street, which opened last fall.

STORE TREK

"Browsing" at Lovejoy's means sitting down and enjoying a spot of tea while turning the pages of British writer Jonathan Cash's intriguing tales. (The Spicknells promise to have a complete set of the Lovejoy novels on hand.) Your tea will be served in an antique porcelain cup, and if you wish, it will be accompanied by fresh scones, English preserves, and real Devonshire cream.

Martin Spicknell, a true Englishman, waxes poetic about the intricacies of the "art of making tea." He imports only English tea, and insists upon the traditional technique—no tea bags, a prewarmed pot, and water heated to precisely 212 degrees.

Lovejoy's rose walls offer "views" of the English countryside, as seen through faux windows painted by an English landscape artist. Flowered curtains frame the windows—real and imaginary—and the floor is vintage pine. Comfy antique chairs and couches seat 30. And an English country garden, planted in flower boxes, will grace the sidewalk once the weather allows outdoor seating.

Lovejoy's Antiques and Tea Room is open seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Chocolate Covered
3961½ 24th St.
641-8123

Chocolate makes Marilyn Sitkoff's mother feel good, so Sitkoff and her partner, Jack Epstein, ventured out from Noe Valley one day last summer to find "good quality, handmade treats" to send to her. That search sparked the idea for Chocolate Covered.

Noe Valley residents and business owners for 13 years, Sitkoff and Epstein are the unofficial boxer shorts suppliers for the neighborhood, via their Ocean Front Walkers store on 24th near Noe. But they wanted to diversify and were searching for a Noe Valley need to fill that would also be "something we had an affinity for."

Last fall they leased the space on 24th Street beneath Aquarius Records, across from Bell Market. They planted a garden outside, laid new tiles inside, built cus-



Jack Epstein and Marilyn Sitkoff have hearts and flowers for Valentine's Day at their 24th Street shop Chocolate Covered.

tom display shelves, and created a chocolate lover's lair. And although handmade chocolate is the priority, they've also tucked a collection of stuffed bears and gifts into one nook of the store.

Least post-holiday dieters fear that taking the few steps down from 24th Street to Chocolate Covered would be too decadent, the owners have included an assortment of sugar-free candies and even sugar-free, fat-free fudge sauce in their stock.

Both Epstein and Sitkoff take their sweet tooth seriously. Says Epstein, "It's our job to taste, and bring the best to Noe Valley."

The hours at Chocolate Covered are from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., seven days a week.

Java Joint
1551 Dolores St.
824-5524

As a cab driver traveling the streets of San Francisco, Abdel Almohtaseb has spent quite a few years scouting locations for his dream business: a neighborhood coffee shop.

Almohtaseb promised himself that if

he were able to open in 1994, he would donate two percent of his profits to local charities. On Dec. 24, 1994, exactly six years to the day after he arrived in this country from Jordan, he opened the doors to the Java Joint, located on the corner of Dolores and Valley streets. The San Francisco AIDS Foundation will be his first beneficiary.

The Java Joint is bright and airy, with large windows on two sides, affording a view of the Dolores Street palms.

Almohtaseb says he knew exactly the feeling he wanted for his "true neighborhood coffeehouse. It had to be homey, cozy, maybe a little funky." He achieved this ambience with the help of an artist friend, who chose interior colors of green, peach, and almond, and hung original paintings in bold primary colors on the walls.

Regulars at the Java Joint will enjoy all the best coffeehouse fare—exotic coffees, fresh juices, Italian sodas, and a dizzying array of cookies, biscotti, muffins, and cakes. Customers can select coffee beans from all over the world, and they can even get a frequent coffee-drinker card—the 10th cup is free.

Early birds and night owls alike should be pleased to know that the Java Joint is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sundays.



Abdel Almohtaseb opened his Java Joint, a warm and cozy coffeehouse on Dolores Street, on Christmas Eve.

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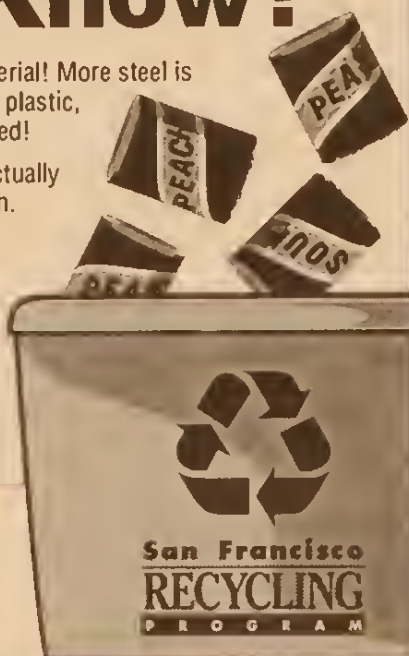
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The Emotional Pull of the Piano of Michael Halaas

By Jeff Kaliss

Michael Halaas' percussive and passionate style of piano just doesn't fit into the New Age pigeonhole.

Halaas, who lives on Noe Street, found that out this fall when he sent radio station KKSF a copy of his latest solo piano album, *Face to Face*, on the i [sic] Records label. The album's lyricism, though suggestive of the gentle ruminations of a George Winston, was deemed too dynamic for the station's play list.

"The program director said my music would force people to listen to it, so he couldn't play it," recounts Halaas. "So I was like, 'Well, thanks.'"

Though he appears a bit shy, sipping a latte at Starbuck's, the 25-year-old Halaas has to admit that he really lets loose on the keyboard.

"I think it frightens some of the New Age people, because some of it is very negative, edgy, darker stuff," he says. "And that's what I like it to be, because that's what I think people are made up of."

"I'm into completeness, including the frazzled stuff, and a lot of New Age stuff barely reaches that and then backs off and says it's still beautiful, with rolling, flowing nature scenery. But that's not what I'm about."

Consider his musical history and influences. Although he started classical lessons at age 5 in his hometown of Pueblo, Colorado, Halaas abandoned Hanon for a heavy metal drum set when he reached his teens.

"I still draw a lot of inspiration from musicians who are on the same track as me, like Nine Inch Nails," says Halaas, in reference to the raucous, angry band that last year released *March of the Pigs*, propelling the wild throng into the muddy pit at Woodstock II.

"Trent Reznor, the Nails' lead guy, is one of the most bare individuals I know, and I've seen the group 12 times."

Halaas may gravitate toward Metallica, but he also admires the acoustic and emotionally forthright stylings of songwriters Tori Amos and Annie Dikranian, a musician he opened for at the Great American Music Hall this past year. Many of his



Though Michael Halaas' music definitely has a free-floating New Age quality, it also shares the expressionism of a Keith Jarrett.
PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

pieces are "accessible" to a wide audience, with melodies and rhythms conducive to a meditative trance.

"When I'm playing, everything just sort of dissolves," he says. "When the whole point of doing this malleable, artistic thing is to express emotions, the emotions take over completely. They're not just coming out of the piano, they're coming out of me."

This process is most satisfying to Halaas in live performance, "because I'm about human connection," he says. However, he's gone into the studio to record three albums over the past four years.

His newest album retains some of the harmonic delicacy of *No Disguises* (1991) and *Stare* (1992), but packs much more of a wallop. That may be because the title song, "Face to Face," deals with the composer's coming out as a gay man.

"It's like tearing yourself down and ripping yourself up and trying to see what your inner structure is," says Halaas, "and having done that, coming to an inner peace about yourself. There was all this noise in my head that you don't really notice till it's gone, and once it's gone, you're like, 'Wow.'"

"Coming out for me, like for anybody who does it, was a big overhaul and a very purging experience," he continues. "There are a lot of issues that sound sort

of standard, like family and how you fit in society, but the reality of dealing with that is big. Without doing that, for me, I didn't feel like a real person."

That evolution has also involved coming out as a musician after pre-med studies at Stanford. About six months ago, he decided to put his medical career on hold to try to make a living from music.

"Medicine is cool, and I like it. I like the fact that it's socially relevant," he says. "But music is what I really feel. And when I don't do it, I just go crazy."

Nevertheless, his medical background serves him well on his day job at Stanford University Hospital. "I work in a lab. We do neurological sleep research, so I spend most of the day with small rodents. I watch their brains sleep."

Halaas spends the rest of his time at his alma mater practicing and composing on the school's pianos, since he doesn't yet own an instrument. His aggressive attack sometimes leaves broken strings. The technicians who repair things after a Halaas workout also lend him tuning wedges, which he inserts between strings for a special muted effect.

At other times, he uses wads of cloth made from a cut-up shirt. This form of prepared piano can be heard on the final track of *Face to Face*, co-produced by

Howard Johnston (who's served in that role for George Winston and the Kronos Quartet) and recorded at Johnston's Different Fur Studio on 19th Street.

One of Halaas' resolutions for 1995 is to find a record label that will promote his music while allowing him artistic freedom.

"I get scared about the industry, about whether I can sustain myself," he admits. "My former label and I didn't see eye to eye artistically. They wanted me to be very New Age, and to sell units based on that category."

Even though Halaas has much admiration for the sensitivity of some successful New Age artists, especially pianist Liz Story, he can't tailor his talent to fit the fickle tastes of the album-buying public any more than that of radio personnel.

By the same token, he doesn't want to always live the life of the the anguished artist, particularly when he sets off for drinks with friends at his favorite bar, the Rat and Raven on 24th Street.

"The Rat and Raven is not [an anguished artist] kind of a place," Halaas laughs. "And I think it's definitely important to have a balance. It isn't wise to walk around being intense all the time."

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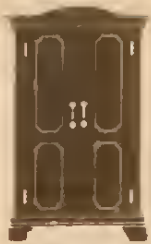


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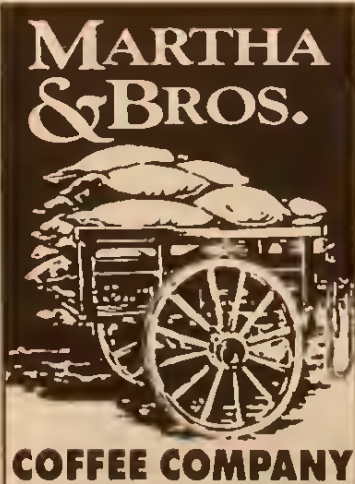
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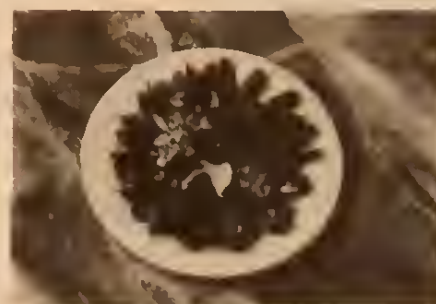
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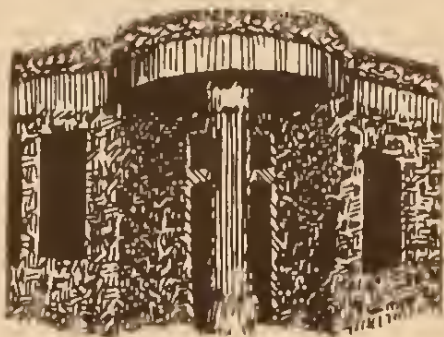
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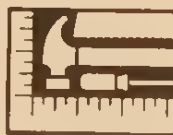
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AUNT HERMIONE'S KITCHEN

The Way to Any Heart

By Ruhama Veltfort

It was only January, but Just for Fun, the gift shop on 24th Street, had already put up a big, cheerful Valentine's Day display. I wondered if Aunt Hermione would appreciate a bunch of flowers from a "secret pal."

It was hard to tell. She wasn't very sentimental, though she had her sweet side. I'd noticed a little gleam in her eye when I'd mentioned that my old college friend Buddy was coming to town for a meeting and wanted to stop by and visit.

"Didn't you say he was single, dear?" she asked.

I couldn't remember whether I'd discussed his marital status at all. Sometimes I thought Aunt Hermione was psychic. I felt a need to make things clear to her.

"As a matter of fact, Aunt Hermione, he just got divorced, but he's not a boyfriend. Just an old friend."

"Well, old friends are the best friends," she remarked coyly.

I blushed. "I suppose so," I answered. "I haven't seen him for nearly twenty years, you know."

The truth was that I had always liked Buddy, even though we'd never actually dated. But he lived in Chicago, and had his own life. He hadn't been married very long, and I'd never met his wife. We'd kept in touch, but I had no idea if there was any chemistry between us. We'd just have to wait and see.... I pulled myself back from a dangerously romantic fantasy.

Aunt Hermione looked as if she was involved in a romance of her own. She was staring dreamily out the window toward Twin Peaks.

"That was such a lovely hill," she said. "I do wish they hadn't put that awful mess of sticks on top of it."

I could sympathize with that.

"Anyway," she said brightly. "We'll have to cook a pot roast for your friend."

I was doubtful. "I don't know what he eats, Auntie."

She stood up to her full 5 feet of height and glared at me sternly. "Now, don't you start that again! I won't have any more of your silly diet nonsense. I do hate to be critical, but it seems to me

that your whole generation is just too preoccupied with what you eat. And it doesn't do you the least bit of good, you know." She softened her stance. "In any case, pot roast is absolutely guaranteed

POT ROAST FOR LOVERS

Ingredients

2-3 pounds "chuck tender" pot roast
Flour for dredging

3 tablespoons canola or other light cooking oil

6 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed

2 medium onions, sliced

2 tablespoons brandy

2 cups red wine (burgundy type)

2 cups water

2 teaspoons powdered soup stock

2 bay leaves

1 teaspoon rosemary

1 teaspoon thyme

Salt and pepper to taste

2 large carrots, cut in 2-inch pieces

3 stalks celery, cut in 2-inch pieces

10 very small red or white potatoes, whole

2 small sweet potatoes (golden dry kind), cut in chunks

2 turnips, cut in chunks

10 small white boiling onions, peeled

Dredge the beef with flour and brown it well in the oil, using a heavy dutch oven or soup pot. Toss in the garlic and sliced onions when the meat begins to brown, but be careful not to let them burn.

Pour the brandy over the meat, let it boil for a minute, scraping up the brown bits from the bottom of the pot. Add wine and water.

Stir in the stock mix and herbs and spices, cover the pot, and turn the heat to very low. Pot roast should cook very slowly.

After the meat has cooked for about 2 hours, add the rest of the vegetables and simmer for another 1 to 1-1/2 hours. Add more water and/or red wine if needed.

When done, the meat should fall apart, but if you need to slice it, be sure to slice against the grain. Serve on a platter surrounded with vegetables and pass the gravy separately. The pot juice may be thickened with flour or cornstarch if you like a thicker gravy.

Serves 4 (with leftovers).

to make a man fall in love."

"Love!" I must have been so red that the One-Stop Party Shop could have cut a heart out of my face and used it in their window. "Auntie, please! He's just a friend."

I suppose I should have been grateful that Aunt Hermione could make me feel so young, even though I had grown-up children and quite a lot of gray hair. Right at this moment, she was making me feel—and act—about 13.

Aunt Hermione was looking at me. She lowered her voice confidentially. "Don't think you're too old, dear. I'm not going to go into the details, but I was well into my forties when I had one of my most passionate romantic liaisons."

I hadn't thought I was too old, exactly. It was just that I'd been divorced for 10 years, and the few serious relationships I'd had since then hadn't seemed to quite work out.

I was happy enough on my own—and since Aunt Hermione had moved in with me, I could hardly say I was lonely. But my old friend Buddy? For some reason I couldn't put my finger on, it seemed unlikely.

Still, the Valentine's mood had affected me. And Aunt Hermione seemed awfully set on this pot roast idea. People did seem to be getting back into eating more traditional American food—all the chic cafes were serving meatloaf now, and before long we'd probably be seeing Chicken Fried Steak on the menu at Rami's.

I had another thought. "What if we cook the pot roast and he does fall in love with me, but I don't fall in love with him?"

"Oh, don't be silly," she said. "It's just a figure of speech, you know. But men *do* love pot roast!"

"All right, then," I said. "I guess it's the season of love, and I'd love for you to teach me how to make pot roast, whether it makes Buddy fall in love with me or not."

At Drewe's Market, I could swear Aunt Hermione was flirting with the young man who waited on us. She picked out a nice "chuck tender" weighing about two and a half pounds. Then we walked up to Church Produce and bought the vegetables—onions, red potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots, celery, and turnips. (I was a little skittish about the turnips, but Aunt Hermione assured me they were delicious in pot roast.)

"Now if only we were cooking more, for a bigger crowd, we'd add a couple of these parsnips too," she mused.

We were expecting Buddy for dinner at six, so we started cooking in the early afternoon, but I was surprised at how little work was actually involved.

It was a fabulous meal, served with red wine, a green salad, and a delicious Como loaf from Grace Bakery, which we'd picked up at MikeyTom Market.

And Aunt Hermione was right. I did fall in love—with the dinner, that is.

Buddy was a charming man, and as I started to clear the plates, he asked Aunt Hermione if she would write down the recipe.

"Why, certainly," she said. "Do you like to cook?"

Buddy laughed. "Oh, no. Carl does the cooking in our household—he's a great cook."

I blinked. But, of course, it all made sense. Buddy seemed so much happier and relaxed than he'd been when I'd known him those many years ago in Syracuse.

Buddy must have noticed my reaction. "Oh, gosh," he said. "I thought everybody knew why I got divorced." He glanced at Aunt Hermione.

She was heaving at him over the beeswax candles. She lifted her glass of wine.

"Well, here's to true love," she said, "wherever it's found." □

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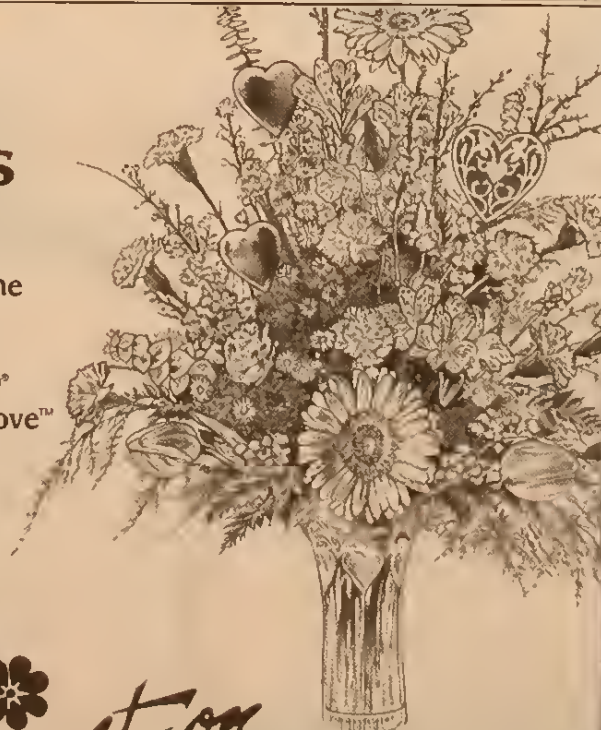
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Better Late Than Never

On Jan. 1, 1995, when we arose early and looked out our window at the sleeping city, I could not help but remark to Leo how wonderful it was to face the day without a weary body or a champagne-induced headache.

We stopped celebrating New Year's Eve 30 years ago, after a harrowing journey across town following an evening with friends in the Westlake area. On that night we had driven back to Noe Valley through pea-soup fog, the kind that allowed only a few feet of visibility. Leo clenched the steering wheel and I held my breath, as the headlights of other automobiles—probably driven by inebriated revelers—loomed suddenly from the thick mist.

We finally arrived home safely, but vowed never again to venture out on such an accident-prone evening. And we have kept our promise, limiting our New Year's activity to visits with neighbors or watching the celebrations on television.

This New Year's Eve we fell asleep so early that only when the horns and noises of the city at midnight awakened us were we able to sleepily mutter to one another, "Happy New Year."

At the crack of dawn, we awoke alert, steady-handed, and able to attend to the task awaiting us: addressing our Christmas cards! Given the late date, we had to inscribe the blank inner page with a post-Christmas message, "Best Wishes for 1995."

We were midway through the process—and starting to feel pretty good about it—when we received a phone call from an old friend. She said that when she failed to get our Christmas card as usual in December, she had become concerned and was calling to find out if we were okay.

We reassured her that we were alive and well, and that she would soon receive our greeting.

Our card this year is a duotone reproduction of Leo's photograph of a misty eucalyptus grove, with one small solitary figure walking through it. We deposited these "Christmas" cards in the mailbox on Jan. 3.

Later in the month, on Jan. 25, I also had reason to celebrate, for this date marked another hurdle, my 76th birthday!

I expected to be doddering at this stage, but instead I am enjoying surprisingly good health, as well as an extremely interesting life. Perhaps the latter insures the former, but I have also found additional measures that contribute to a feeling of well-being, which I will share with you.

On my 50th birthday, when I was beginning to feel every minute of it, some kind friends gave me a book that

FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

Illustrated Reminiscences by Florence Holub



Florence and Leo Holub's New Year's card pictured a eucalyptus grove. PHOTO BY LEO HOLUB

became my bible. It was a copy of Adele Davis' *Let's Eat Right to Keep Fit*. I followed her advice, and within a few weeks my vitality began to return. Ever since then, whenever an unwanted physical malady appears, I thumb through the worn pages and take steps to waylay the ailment!

I quickly learned that in addition to a balanced diet (long in green salads and short on sweets), a daily dose of vitamins helps a lot. Every morning with my granola, I swallow 1,000 milligrams of both E and C, as well as small amounts of A, D, and niacinamide, the morale builder. Also, at my age, calcium should be taken to prevent the bones from becoming porous and breakable. I get my quota by adding a couple of tablespoons of lowfat powdered milk to each cup of morning coffee.

In addition to taking vitamins, I exercise. About 10 years ago when my joints began to get creaky, I consulted a chiropractor who advised me that unless I began attending a regular exercise class, my muscles would begin to atrophy and my mobility would be seriously impaired.

At the same time, by coincidence, a friend urged me to join a class for seniors, conducted by a physical therapist at the Marshall Hale Therapeutic Center. There I learned gentle movements that strengthen the soft tissues supporting our bones. The exercises were so effective that I have felt no need for a chiropractor since!

Although the classes are no longer in session, I follow the exercise routine every morning. Before the first cup of coffee, I get down on the floor for half

an hour, making the motions that enable me to climb the hills of Noe Valley.

Once I started taking better care of my body, I determined to give my mind a workout, too. Just by chance, I heard about and took our youngest son, Eric, along with two of his friends, to the children's art classes at the de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park.

While the kids were busy, I discovered the art lectures for adults who were training to be docents for the museum's fine art collection. Long after the boys had outgrown their art classes, I continued with mine, broadening my view of the world by watching the history of civilization unfold in the galleries.

For me becoming a museum docent was like traveling, but without the inconvenience or expense!

In the '80s, the de Young docents were invited to give tours at the nearby Academy of Sciences. In preparation for showing off the superb nature exhibits, we enrolled in various science courses taught at the museum.

During one lecture in connection with the Academy's "Life Through Time" exhibit, our resident anthropology curator, Dr. Linda Cordell, was talking about evolution and how it was continuing at that very moment. As an example, she mentioned that the children of this generation were not sprouting wisdom teeth like their parents had. Due to the refinement of foods, big grinding molars were no longer needed.

When I related this amazing fact to our grown sons, they said they were not a bit surprised—they had no wisdom teeth either!

Another helpful thing I learned in these courses was how to envision where humans fall on the vast timeline of evolution. Our science instructor told us to picture the Transamerica Pyramid, with the distance from the sidewalk to the top of the building representing 3.7 billion years. Then, place a Ritz cracker at the tip. That little wafer represents the short time that our species has been around!

Suspended from the ceiling in the entry lobby of the Academy of Sciences is an enormous skeleton of a gray whale. When I lead a tour here, I stand beneath it while telling the school children how fossil records show that the whale developed from a four-legged land mammal who went back to sea and used only his front limbs to plow through the water.

The whale's front legs grew powerful, while his rear legs dangled motionless behind him, growing weaker. Over millions of years, those unused legs shriveled to almost nothing.

Pointing up to the two small bones hanging where the legs once were, I remind the kiddies to "use it or lose it." That advice applies to the big kids too, as well as to little old ladies like myself! □

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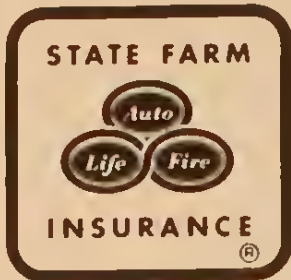
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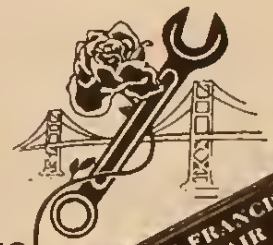
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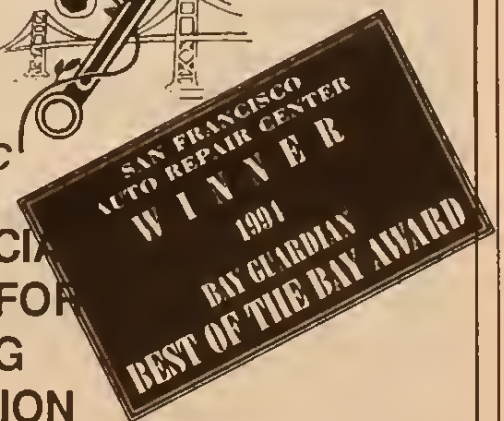
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Let Bylines Be BYLINES

Take That, You Scoundrel!

By Jim Christie

Are you upset with the November election results? Skeptical about the Contract with America? Chances are good that you are. After all, Republicans comprise only 16 percent of registered voters in San Francisco.

When I woke up and turned on the radio one recent morning, the first thing I heard was a news report that President Clinton was sounding more and more like a Republican.

As one pundit put it, "Clinton is the best Republican president we've had in the White House in years."

President Clinton's recent pronouncements have reinforced the truth of that quip, and on more than one occasion I have reacted with a stream of invective that turned the air blue.

On the morning in question, my outburst jarred my wife into unwelcome consciousness. Later at breakfast she said, "I'm tired of hearing you complain about Bill Clinton. But worse than that

is your language. Can't you be more creative?"

Yes, I can! And so can you!

The answer can be found in the works of William Shakespeare. By creating your own Shakespearean insults, you can rid yourself of those common four-letter words that are used by just about everyone these days.

Furthermore, you can employ these expletives in all kinds of situations. I have a page full of them divided into three columns. The first two columns are adjectives, and the third nouns.

After I put my list together, I apologized to my wife: "I'm sorry, dear. The president isn't a #X&# *&^#@! He's a spongy, rump-fed wheyface!"

Now in times of irritation I reel off a Shakespearean epithet. I just combine any three from my list, and voilà!

You may be fed up with a particular congressperson or local politician. He or she is probably a pribbling, flap-mouthed lustularian, or a beslubbering, clay-brained wagtail. Or if you're really irate, he's an unmuzzled, dissemhling, beef-witted clotpole. (Okay, so I used four. It's easy to get carried away.)

When I am upset with someone double-parking on 24th Street, he is no longer an unmentionable so-and-so. More likely, he is a gleeking, hedgeborn footlicker, or a goatish, boil-brained barnacle. (A word to the wise: Don't look at your list while driving, or you're liable to become a mangled, half-faced death-token.)

Choose one word from each column and combine them to create your insult.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
boolless	bat-fowling	bugbear
cockered	dizzy-eyed	clack-dish
fobbing	fat-kidneyed	flirt-gill
gorbellied	idle-headed	gudgeon
lumpish	knotty-paled	maltworm
rank	pottle-deep	moldwarp
spleeny	reeling-ripe	pignut
venomed	sheep-biting	scul
weedy	swag-bellied	skainsmate
yeasty	toad-spotted	varlot

What about those noisy midnight scavengers who clang the bottles and cans while rooting through your recycling bin? Can't they be dismissed as errant, motley-minded huggermuggers?

Or what of the tiresome bureaucrat who rattles off a list of requirements that he should have told you about during your first visit? Isn't he just a droning, dismal-dreaming dewberry?

And how about the postal service? How could those fobbing, pottle-deep gudgeons raise rates and then run out of 3-cent stamps?

In general, these insults are universally understood. However, there might be certain situations where it is inadvisable to use them. In times past, a person could call another a jerk and expect only an equally withering retort, or at worst a brief scuffle. Nowadays, you dare not even look at someone too long.

You can probably get away with calling your local gunslinger an "infectious, hasty-witted coxcomb," which could be mistaken for a compliment. But I doubt whether he'll take kindly to "reeky, fen-sucked hedgepig" or "churlish, onion-eyed cankerblossom." It's far wiser to choose a few favorite combinations and use them as personal, blood pressure-reducing mantras.

Another drawback to the Shakespearean slurs is that they don't roll smoothly off the tongue like present-day curses. It takes practice to let fly effortlessly.

I suggest you study the abbreviated list on this page, then add some words of your own. But in any case, get started right away. It's going to be a long, cold winter, and the last thing you want to be is an lewd, weather-bitten moldwarp. □

Jim Christie is a yeasty newsmonger on the Voice distaff.

Drop Us a Byline

The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of stories, essays, opinion pieces, and other first-person reflections, particularly those relating to Noe Valley people and pastimes. Please mail manuscripts (which should be typed, double-spaced, and fewer than 1,000 words) to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. We'd appreciate a phone number, too. □

P O E T R Y

LOOKING GLASS

By Sharon Skelton

My husband of four years is walking with me
and asks me what I'm looking at.
Am I really looking in those people's windows
at dusk, newly lit faces
a string of life
like filmstrip in this town,
San Francisco, where all the people live together
touching each other,
The Painted Ladies all gossiping?
Strange, he doesn't know I do that, doesn't know how I think
that I catch myself thinking anyone with closed drapes is Chinese
because my friend from San Diego told me
Chinese people keep their drapes closed for years.
She should talk.

I like to see what can happen in the time it takes me to pass their houses.
Like, how many heartbeats can you count while you hold your breath.
Two people mouthing obscenities maybe.
A sponge-painted hearth has a vase of new irises.
A woman won't look at the baby she's holding,
doing the up-and-down, side-to-side dance.
You just want to hold her.
I tear up under her porch light and try telepathy:
He'll stop soon. Hang on. He loves you.
You're a good mom....

I see a light that is much too bright,
Play night ball by that kitchen light, I say
crossing the street.

My favorites are the old Victorians that haven't been split into flats
They haven't enameled over their dining-room wood yet.
The light fixtures are fluted.
The mirrors are beveled.
Some of their glass is stained, but you can still see inside.
The very old live in these windows,
and the very young.
These people either know how to keep secrets, or they don't.
They're either cleaning
or they've got peanut-butter smiles smashed up to the pane
and they're waving at you.

Sharon Skelton, mother of two, is an elementary school teacher who lived on Sanchez Street for four years.

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Let Bylines Be BYLINES

Distractions at a Cafe

By Bobbie Stein

It happened again. I was sitting in the Muddy Waters Coffee House, drinking my decaf soy cappuccino and reading the newspaper (*The New York Times* due to the San Francisco newspaper strike), when a woman sat down at the table right next to me and instantly began an intense, therapy-like session with her fellow beaner.

The tables at this cafe are so close that one can't help but hear, see, and smell everything that goes on next door.

At first her rambling was mere background noise, blended in with the din of the espresso maker and the jazz from the speakers overhead. But with each sip of my slightly bitter brew I became more and more drawn to her story. Her voice was no longer white noise that could be ignored. She was having a crisis...and like it or not, I was going to hear about it!

I pricked up my ears and averted my eyes. I stared vacantly at my paper, not able to comprehend a single word of print. And even though I wasn't actually reading the paper, I would turn the page periodically so as not to seem an obvious intruder.

At one point, the woman's sage confidant actually sat down at my table.

He had gotten up to get a coffee refill, and upon his return, instead of retaking his seat across from his frenzied friend, he sat down right across from me. If I wasn't already feeling awkward enough, the new seating arrangement cinched it. The woman was being evicted from

her apartment with her two roommates. They all planned to go their separate ways. The trouble was...she was in love with one of her roommates and wanted to live with him in the afterworld.

Predictably, the object of her affection didn't want to be tied down and wasn't looking for romance—at least not from her.

She was heartbroken and confused. After all, they had spent many a night together, sharing more than just rent. And now he was just blowing her off.

To make matters worse, she was having a hard time with her family, who were not being supportive of her current lifestyle. Although she was not working and was between school experiences, she felt as if she was moving towards "something."

I began to relate to the woman's story and was just settling comfortably into my role as passive participant when the woman's friend rose rather abruptly and bid her adieu. The bus was about to stop outside the cafe, and he had to be on it.

Was that it?! The woman said a teary goodbye, and somehow all of her intensity dissipated at once as she casually turned her attention to her bagel and latte.

I did not take the man's departure nearly so well. I had been engrossed in this stranger's saga and naturally wanted to hear more. Had I been in a Woody Allen movie, I surely would have continued the dialogue and offered counsel to the woman myself. But, alas, life does not imitate art and I do not imitate Woody Allen.

My coffee was gone. There was nothing left for me but to leave. I felt a strange sort of anticlimax as I walked out the door with my unread newspaper under my arm.

Perhaps my next cappuccino should be enjoyed sitting next to the Internet table, where I will be distracted only by the curious clicking of the keyboard. □

When she's not eavesdropping at Spinelli's or Starbucks on 24th Street, Bobbie Stein teaches law at New College of California.

CALLING CARD

Here's a list of public service numbers that San Francisco residents can call to obtain information or register a complaint. Now don't everybody call at once.

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Abandoned Cars.....781-5865
Curb Painting.....554-2323
DPW (24-hour emergency).....695-2020
Graffiti Removal.....695-2017
Hazardous Spills (on street).....861-8020
Hazardous Waste Hotline.....554-4333
Illegal Parking.....553-1200
Noise (construction related).....558-6060
Noise (nuisance—police).....563-1012
Parking Meters (out of order).....550-2739
Parking Permits (residential).....554-5000
San Francisco Beautiful.....421-2608
Sidewalk Inspection.....554-5860
Street Cleaning (to remove illegally dumped items or garbage).....695-2017
Streetlights (out of order).....554-0730
Street Signs.....554-9870
Towed Cars (to retrieve).....553-1235
Traffic Signals (out of order).....550-2736
Water Dept. (street breaks).....550-4911

Community United Against Violence (CUAV).....864-3112
Drug Information Hotline.....752-3400
Elder Abuse Hotline.....557-5230
Fire (non-emergency).....861-8000
Poison Control Center.....1-800-523-2222
Police/Fire Emergency.....911
Police (non-emergency).....553-0123
San Francisco SAFE.....553-1984
S.F. Women Against Rape.....647-7273
Suicide & Crisis Line.....221-1423

HOME

Building Inspection.....558-6087
Electrical Inspection.....558-6030
Pacific Bell.....611
PG&E.....974-1555
Plumbing Inspection.....558-6054
Sunset Scavenger.....330-1300
Viacom Cable.....863-9600
Water Dept. (home emergencies) 923-2400

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Animal Care and Control.....554-6364
Animal Disposal.....334-0111
Child Abuse Reporting.....665-0757
Community Boards.....863-6100

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Time.....POPCORN (767-8900)
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Weather (Bay Area).....936-1212



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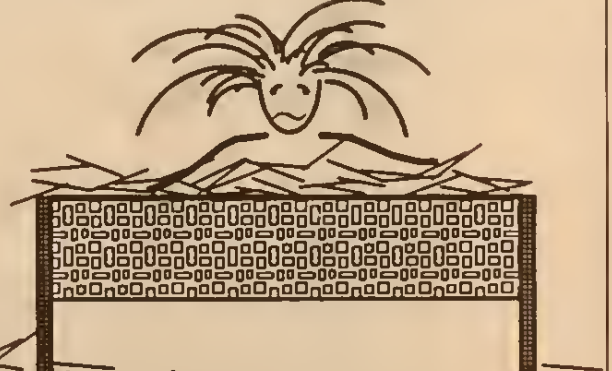
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MORE MOUTHS to feed

Ida Elizabeth Cuttler
and Emma Harriet Cuttler

By Jim Christie

"I call them my 9 to 5 babies!" exclaims Lauren Cuttler.

She is talking about her two daughters, of course: Emma, 11 months old, and Ida, 2-1/2 years.

For Lauren, giving birth was almost (but not quite) a routine, workaday event. "They had to kick-start me both times," she laughs, referring to her induced labor, "but after that it was easy. I was in labor for six and a half hours with Ida and only three and a half with Emma."

Both girls were born at California Pacific Medical Center. Ida arrived on July 23, 1992, at 5:30 p.m. She weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce, and was 21 inches long. Ida has brown eyes and curly brown hair with blond highlights, and has grown to be a slender and petite preschooler.

Emma was born March 4, 1994, at 2:30 p.m., weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces. She also was 21 inches long.

"Now she's enormous!" says Lauren. "She's chunky and has a round fat face, and she's off the scales in height." She also has brown eyes and a little bit of dark brown hair, which, according to her dad, Sasha, "is more than I have."

The girls take after Sasha in the looks department—neither has Lauren's red hair and freckles. As for personalities, both girls are assertive and independent, but Ida is a tad "more social" than Emma.

Mom says Emma is very observant and loves to stare at people. Dad agrees. "We have a Texan neighbor," he says, "and one day he said to us, 'Don't she ever blink?'"

Older sister Ida attends Dolores Terrace Preschool three days a week and always makes a point of saying hello to the



The Cuttlers have quite an extended family. Shown (clockwise from foreground) are Bruce Pachtman, mom Lauren Cuttler with baby Emma in her lap, Beth and Morgan Harris, P. Labeija, and dad Sasha Cuttler, with daughter Ida. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

masonry lion and horse out front. When she's at home with Emma, the two love to play "People" and "Clothes" together. They also have a riot pushing and pulling Emma's walker around, often with one of them in it.

Ida and Emma also enjoy the Tuesday morning gymboreses with Mom at Day Street Park, and they love to join Dad at the Noe Valley Library's "lap-sit" program on Wednesday evenings for singing and storytelling.

Favorite haunts near their home at 29th and Dolores include the Martha & Bros. coffeshop and Star Bakery.

Lauren, 39, and Sasha, 34, are both nurses with Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco. They were introduced by a mutual friend and will celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary in June. Both are longtime Noe Valleyans, Sasha for eight years and Lauren for more than 10.

Lauren and Sasha have a lot to say about parenting. Lauren's advice to prospective parents is to spend a lot of

time together before having children.

Sasha has advice not only for people considering children, but for newlyweds as well: "Men, take your wife's name! Get rid of those hyphens!" (Sasha did just that. His "maiden" name is Levine.)

More seriously, Sasha thinks would-be parents could learn a lot from some of his gay friends who chose to have kids. "Children for them is not an expectation, so they have to put some very serious thought into their decision."

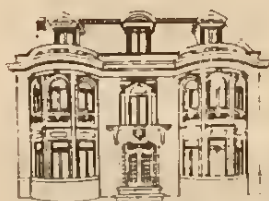
Lauren loves watching the girls "turn into people," and she's surprised by the intensity of caring she feels for them.

Sasha's favorite thing about parenting is having "a guaranteed audience for bad jokes," and he gives a quick example:

"Ida," he calls out. "When I say jump, what do you say?"

Ida ponders for a moment and then yells, "Hi-ho!"—close enough to "How high?" to get everybody giggling. □

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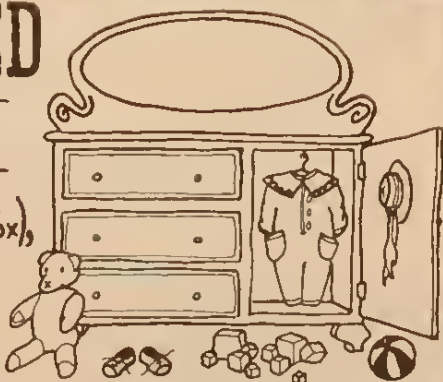
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Contact: Don Kern or Howard Johnson, 821-3866

Mailing Address: 225 Clipper St., San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Third Tuesday of month, Bethany Methodist Church, 201 Clipper St., 7 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Bruce Muncil, 864-7847

Mailing Address: 336 Cumberland St., San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

Duncan-Newburg Association

Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734, Janet Kennedy, 647-1844, or

Deanna Mooney, 821-4045

Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753

Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484

Mailing Address: 78 Harper St., San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Kevin Brickley, 285-4938

Mailing Address: 165 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110

Meetings: Twice a year at ICA Auditorium, 24th & Guerrero.

Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: David Geren, 641-4681

Mailing Address: 327 Jersey St., San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990, or Hilda Bemstein, 282-8232

Mailing Address: 3333 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94110

Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Rick Hauptman, 647-0549

Mailing Address: 1595 Noe St., #6, San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Held periodically at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: J. P. Gillen, 821-1515

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 460574, San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

Noe Valley Senior Center

Call 648-1030 for lunch reservations.

Mailing Address: 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Monday through Friday for lunch (donation \$1.25), Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 12:30 p.m.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500

Mailing Address: 284 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: First Monday of month, Just for You Too Cafe, 1793 Church St., 3 p.m.

R.A.A.G.E. (Race Awareness Arbitration Group Education)

Contact: 285-5322

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 426199, San Francisco, CA 94142

Call for meeting times.

21st Street 4000 Block SAFE

Contact: Santiago Rodriguez

Mailing Address: 4014 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Held periodically.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Janice Gendreau, 641-5989

Mailing Address: 403 28th St., San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Every other month, Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7:30 p.m. Call for specifics.

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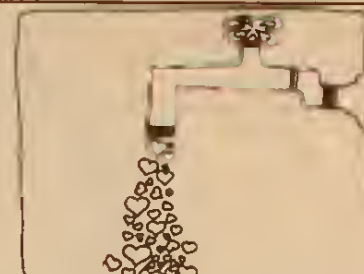
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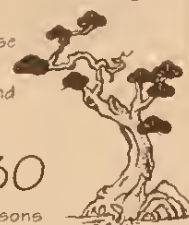
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We are deeply grateful to all those who
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Thanks to them and others, we are more than halfway to our goal.

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Grimstad/Wikstrom Family Fund
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Lakeside Presbyterian Church
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Linda & John Gorman

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TOTAL AMOUNT
Including pledges: \$47,914.

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Paul Kantus - Video production

Please Send Your Contributions to:

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San Francisco, CA 94146-0753

P O E M

INSIDE TOGETHER

By Peter Money

Down on the floor,
on the rug, our heads sharing
pillow
in late afternoon
in autumn
warm
easy Saturday
blue through geometry
of glass
—I lift my head up
in the figurative
do, this,
mine eyes
open
to tall ceiling
into newness which we can claim, say
happy to have moved here
into this valley
a city of mountains
& rush of ocean
steady/
present/
reminder/
no rush only
a flow to follow
—flat back to mend
on compress
chill heating
spine.
“I’m glad we’re here.”
“Me too.”

Twenty-third Street resident Peter Money wrote this poem shortly after he moved here from Brooklyn, N.Y. His first book of poems, *These Are My Shoes*, was published in New York in 1991.



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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

By Mazook

24TH STREET BLEAT. Downtown Noe Valley has been going through some ch-changes this winter. What I mean to say is, during the holiday season, we saw the unseasonable closing, moving, or evaporating of Noe Valley Bakery, Printmasters, Pergamino Coffee, Isa's for Men, and Readings by Jean. Noe Valley's only neon palm reader and psychic. (I hope this is not an ominous sign.)

☎ ☎ ☎

STARTING AT THE TOP of our list, Baker Egon Grundmann says he regrets that few Noe Valleons got word that he'd sold his Noe Valley Bakery in September.

Says Egon, who has been on 24th Street (near Castro) since 1989, "If you had told me six months ago that I would be selling my business by the end of the year, I would have told you you were crazy."

"But in August I had two heart attacks, and my doctor was saying it would be wise to sell the business because I was not handling the stress in operating it," he adds. "Most of my regular customers knew the bakery was being sold, but I didn't know it would take so long to finish the sale or that the bakery would stay closed."

The buyers are Michael and Mary Gassen, who have lived on Castro Hill for the past two years (at 19th and Collingwood). They presently operate a wholesale bakery downtown (which they will close), and say they have wanted to open a retail bakery in Downtown N.V. for some time.

Michael—who has been a baker for the past 12 years, at Acme Semifreddi's, and Il Fornaio—is busy remodeling, so the couple can unveil their Noe Valley Bakery and Bread Company by the end of this month.

The place will still be a neighborhood bakery, he says, with lots of old standbys like "great breads, fruit breads, muffins, cakes, and fine pastries."

But Michael seems most proud of his dried sour cherry and bittersweet chocolate bread, and an apricot and candied gingerbread that he says was dubbed one of the *Bay Guardian's* favorites.

"We've gotten over a hundred people at the door asking what was going on, and everyone seems excited and relieved that it will remain a neighborhood bakery," he says.

Oh and yes, the Noe Valley Bakery and Bread Company will have an espresso machine to serve your favorite java jolt. There are no plans for indoor seating, however—most likely just benches outside.

☎ ☎ ☎

PRINTMASTERS' SPOT nearby on 24th Street will become home to optometrists Kimberly Tom and Cindy Toy.

Eye Q should open March 1, according to Kimberly, who says both she and her partner shop in Noe Valley and now are very excited to move here.

"We both love the neighborhood," explains Kim, "and when we did some demographic studies we found that with approximately 25,000 people and only two optometrists in Noe Valley, we would be well within American Optometric As-



Storms of '95 Liberate Tree: The January wind and rain whipped up such a frenzy that a tree crashed through the fence at the rear of Upper Noe Recreation Center at Sanchez and Day streets. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

sociation guidelines of one optometrist for every 7,000 people." Eye see.

☎ ☎ ☎

FAILING THE DARWINIAN TEST this past year was Pergamino Coffee, the coffee shop that replaced the Pantry at the corner of 24th and Sanchez. Pergamino closed its doors and covered its windows with paper in January, or was it December? Somehow I've lost track, so I guess that was part of the problem.

Moving in, and quickly, I might add, is Rustico to Go, which owner Karen Goldberg says will have deli food service, plus "California Italian cuisine."

Karen, who also operates Rustico Restaurant over on De Haro Street below Potrero Hill, will feature perfect fast food for us boomer-and-below Noe Valleons: "low-fat, non-fat foods, like cheeseless pizza and gourmet panini, little sandwiches on a long baguette," she says.

And she should know, since she just moved her home from Noe Valley (to Mill Valley, of course).

"When you live in a community, you find out what works," says Karen, who is looking forward to maintaining her old ties to the neighborhood. "We are going to be the Real Food Company of prepared food in Noe Valley!"

☎ ☎ ☎

ANOTHER HAPPY TRADE on 24th, a laughter of sorts, is the Hu Ha change in ownership at Noe Valley Tien Fu, the Chinese eatery next to Real Food.

Jose Hu, a waiter at Tien Fu's bar and restaurant since it opened in 1984, has bought the place from his former boss, Coco Ha.

Tien Fu's menu will stay basically the same, but Jose has hired a piano player, Jim Ritchie, to play your favorite tunes on Friday and Saturday nights from 8:30 to 11:30. To add to the romance, Jose says he'll have fresh flowers and candles on the tables for the musical weekends.

☎ ☎ ☎

ISA'S FOR MEN, a block away on 24th near the Holey Bagel, is shutting down after only a year and a half, and owner Isa Muhawieh says he is getting out of the men's clothing business.

As you all know, Isa is semi-famous for Isa's for Hair, the successful 24th Street hair salon he has presided over for the past 11 years. He's also making a

name for himself in Bernal Heights, where he has opened another Isa's hair salon (on Cortland). So what happened to the men's store?

"The reason I am closing is quite simple: not enough sales," says Isa. "Now I know why there is only one other shop selling men's clothing in Noe Valley!"

Isa says that even though he put a lot of energy into the store, Isa's for Men was unable to develop consistent walk-in traffic.

"It was a great Christmas, but not year-round," he says. "If I had it to do over, I would be open longer hours, but start later in the morning, like from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m."

☎ ☎ ☎

SMALL PRESS TRAFFIC, the nonprofit literary center that runs great workshops and reading series and was once a neighborhood institution, will unfortunately leave its corner on the fringes of Noe Valley at 24th and Guerrero Feb. 1.

But the bookstore wants everyone to know it is still around, operating temporarily at Lodestar Books on Noe near Market, until it can find permanent quarters elsewhere.

In late January, local writers Anne Lamott, Jon Carroll, and Adair Lara were guests of honor at a special benefit soiree for Small Press, which has been struggling to stay ahead of the big press traffic in recent years. If you want to help or buy some books (being sold at a significant discount), stop by Lodestar or call 285-8394.

☎ ☎ ☎

THE PSYCHIC HOTLINE went dead, and the neon lights at "Readings by Jean" suddenly dimmed one dark and dreary night this past October. The next morning, Jean, the psychic who lived above her palm reading studio on Church near 24th, was nowhere to be found.

After weeks of calling and knocking on doors, the landlord posted notices and commenced eviction procedures, and the sheriff arrived in mid-November to restore possession of the premises to the landlord.

When the sheriff's deputies entered the storefront, they discovered everything intact and nothing had been moved. And when they went upstairs to Jean's residence, they reportedly found toys scattered on the living room floor and

dinner still on the table, partially eaten.

Jean apparently (or apparitionally) took her family and split in a hurry.

Martin Spicknell, who has opened an antique store/tearoom in the space (see *Storetrek*), says people are still coming into the store looking for Jean. I predict we will never see her again.

☎ ☎ ☎

ANOTHER SURPRISE WAS THE 24th Street cave-in in front of Tien Fu/Bell Market on Sunday morning, Jan. 15. According to George Dugan of DPW's street repair division, the cave-in was not the result of the recent heavy rains, but rather due to a sewer break. Said George, "There was a side sewer which separated, causing the soil below the street to erode, and the street caved in."

Naturally, those Noe Valleons who were using their cars to get from place to place in the pouring rain enjoyed the fact that eastbound traffic on 24th Street was held up for three days while crews got a lid on the situation. Then it took another week to fix it.

The good news is, the "Block from Hell" on 25th Street between Church and Sanchez HAS FINALLY BEEN PAVED. Yes, folks, it's been A YEAR since the Water Department started churning up the asphalt to redo the pipes. But that's okay. Take your time. We'll just sit here in our flooded basements.

☎ ☎ ☎

BEFORE I GO, those who would like to support your fellow fault-dwellers in the Kobe-Osaka area, survivors of Japan's terrible ground-shaking Jan. 17, see Mervyn Mark at What's for Dessert (at Church and 27th).

Mervyn has set out a collection jar at his cafe. You can drop in a check made out to the "Kobe-Osaka Earthquake Relief Fund," and he'll mail the bunch to the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (1840 Sutter St., S.F., CA 94115).

"They [residents of Japan] helped us quite a bit when we had our quake," says Mervyn, "and it's time for us to get together and help them in the disaster they're now facing."

The jar will be on the counter through February, he says, "but if you don't see it, just ask for me and I'll be happy to mail in your donation."

Happy trails (no mudslides) to you. ☐

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MINUTES AFTER SHE WAS BORN, HER PARENTS THREW HER OUT OF A SPEEDING CAR. AMAZINGLY, SHE MANAGED TO LAND ON HER FEET.

Elizabeth was found in a brown paper bag on a San Francisco street. Her umbilical cord draped around her, she bore all the marks of a newborn baby. And some other ones, too.

Her skull was fractured from hitting the pavement. But if Elizabeth's parents had been cruel to her, they had started even before she was born. Because, as the tests revealed, she had drugs in her system. The worst, however, was yet to come.

Before she was 2 weeks old, the tiny infant went into cardiac arrest and had to be put on life-support. By then, she didn't need a doctor, but a miracle.

Providence sent her one, by the name of Cathie Behrendt. As Elizabeth's foster mother, Cathie saw the fragile infant



through every crisis: the agony of withdrawal, the seizures caused by her terrible head injuries. When things would seem hopeless, Cathie would find

support at a local United Way agency. Eventually, Elizabeth became well again. She also became Cathie's adopted child.



As incredible as this story may seem, you hear one like it almost daily. Although not always with such a happy ending. Last

year, seventy-three abandoned babies were found in the city of San Francisco alone. But if that figure seems overwhelming, so

is your generosity. Please continue to give through your local United Way; your gift helps provide much-needed services ranging from infant respite care, adoption and foster care placement to training for children with special needs. And, just as important, rehabilitation, education and counseling programs for thousands of parents.

While it may be hard to understand how some people could just throw away a part of their lives, it's reassuring to know there are others who will come forward to help.

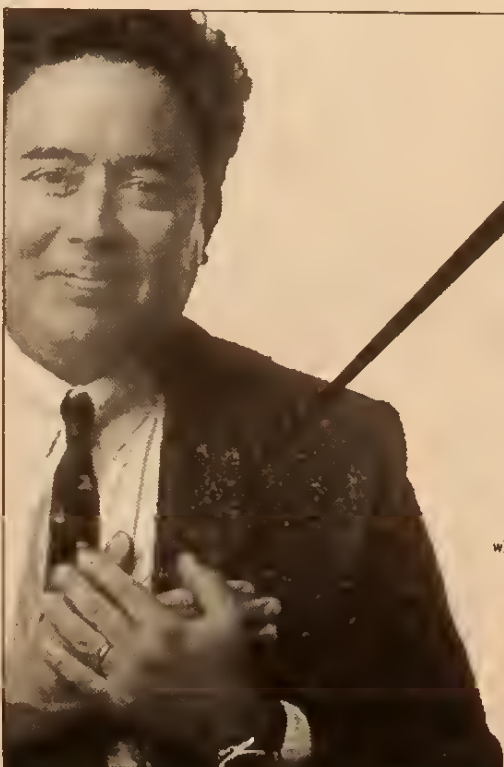
Yes, Elizabeth was

thrown from a speeding car. But the way we see it, you were there to catch her.



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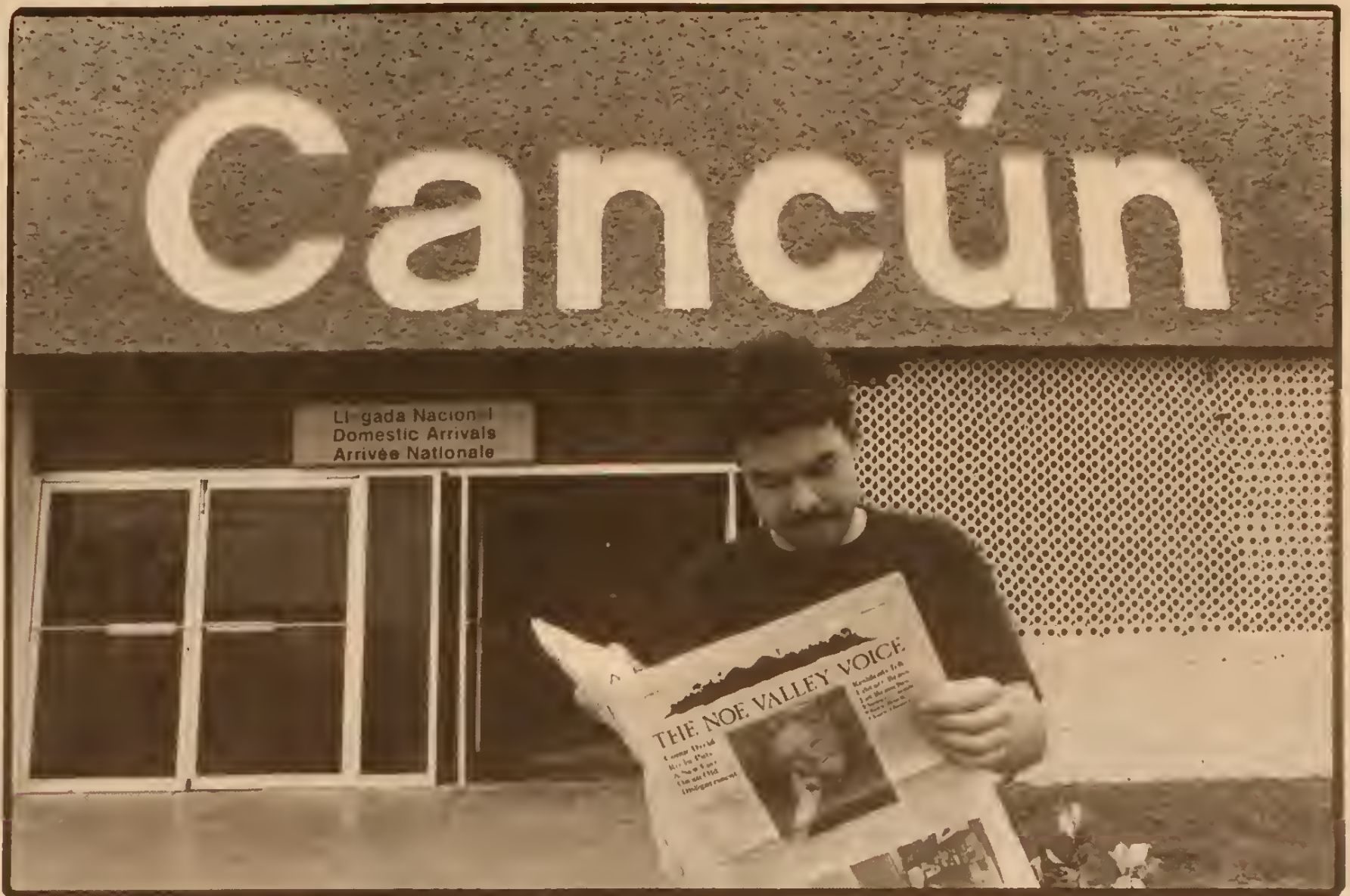
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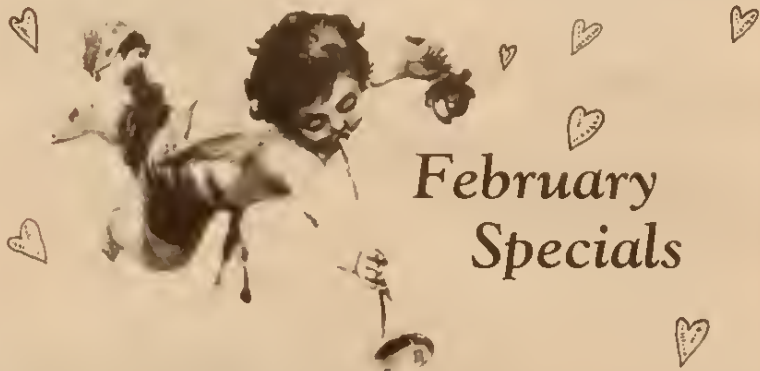
Coordinated by Shanti Project, with AIDS Indigent Direct Services, AIDS Services Bayview-Hunter's Point Foundation, The Bridge for Kids, The Brothers Network, GAPA Community HIV Project, San Francisco AIDS Foundation



Fly Us to Mexico: Bill Mesler takes a Voice break during a layover in Cancun. PHOTO BY NAJIB JOE HAKIM



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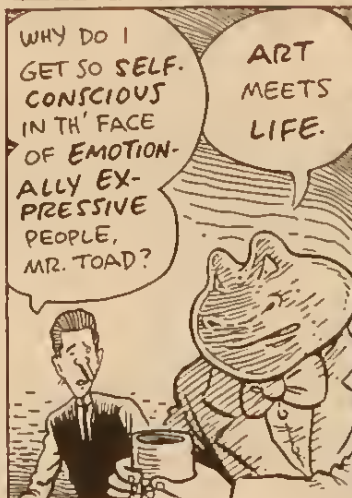
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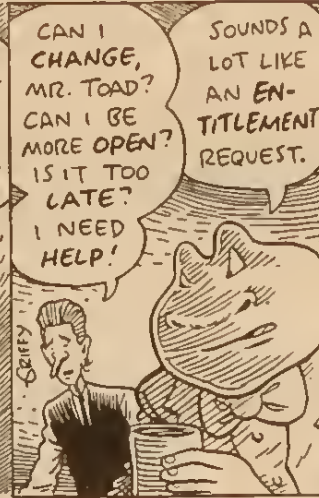
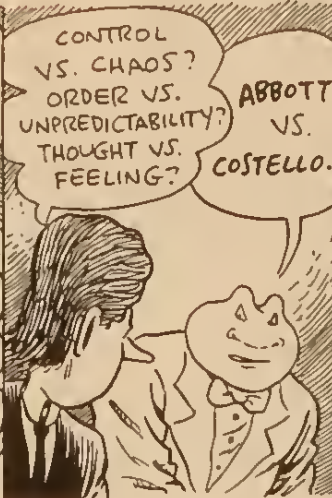
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"RIGHT THINKING"



Bill Griffith

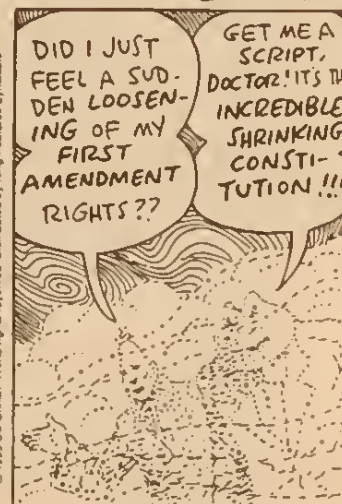


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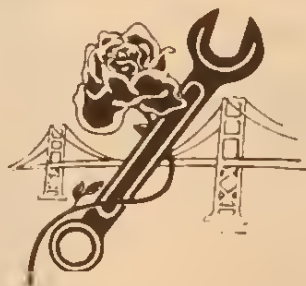
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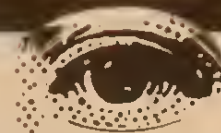


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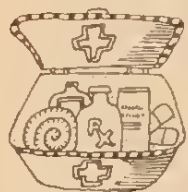
QUAKEBUSTERS

We're Okay, But Are They Okay? Even though Noe Valley has been declared an earthquake-free zone, there are still those other neighborhoods to worry about. And in the event of a shaker, you might need one or more of these items—to help us all survive.

A Fire Extinguisher
Your fire extinguisher should be suitable for all types of fires and should be easily accessible.



Blankets, Clothing
Extra blankets and clothing may be necessary to keep warm, and a sturdy pair of shoes is always a plus.

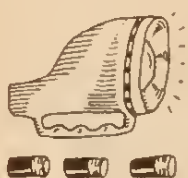


First-Aid Kit
The kit should be in a central location and should include a list of emergency instructions.



Radio and Batteries
Transistor radios will be useful for receiving emergency broadcasts and current disaster information.

Wrench
Have a crescent or pipe wrench on hand to turn off gas and water valves.



Flashlight
Keep flashlights (and extra batteries) in several locations in case of a power failure.

Dry or Canned Food, Money
Store a week's supply of food for each person. Also, stash some cash and some quarters for the pay phones.



Water, Disinfectant
Store several gallons of water for each person, plus a disinfectant like chlorine bleach to purify it.



Cooking Source
Store barbecue, charcoal, starter, and matches, in case the city's utilities are out of service.

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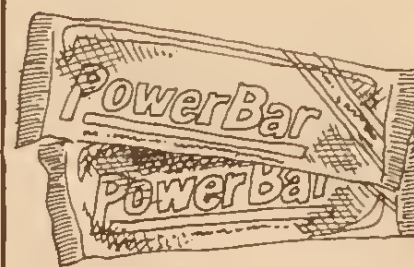
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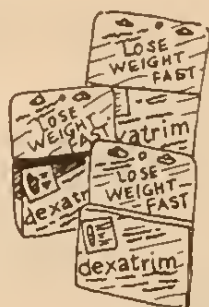


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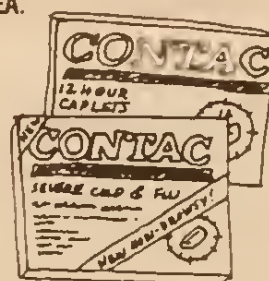


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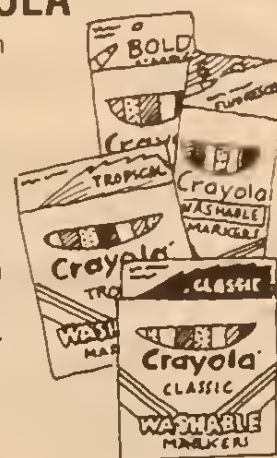


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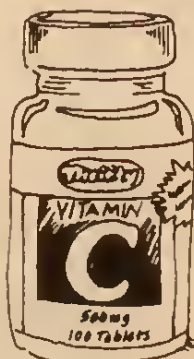


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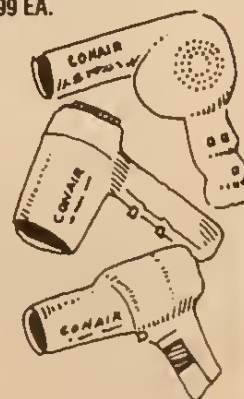
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Book of the Month

• The Noe Valley Book Discussion Group welcomes new members to this month's meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley Library on Jersey Street. The book to be discussed will be Nadine Gordimer's *None to Accompany Me*, a novel set in South Africa before the beginning of majority rule.

Adult Fiction

• *Good Bones and Simple Murders* is a collection of parables, monologues, prose poems, and mini-stories by the novelist Margaret Atwood.

• In *Into the Fire*, David Wiltse's latest thriller, a former FBI agent receives an anonymous coded message.

• Women are the central characters in Margaret Munro's *Open Secrets*, a collection of geographically related short stories that explore how time and circumstance change a person's priorities.

Adult Non-Fiction

• With full-color illustrations, *The Art of Water Color*, by Charles Le Clair, is a revised edition of this classic manual on still-life, landscape, and figure painting.

• In *Pharaoh's Army*, by Tobias Wolff, depicts the author's experience as an officer in the Vietnam War.

• *Stap Treating Me Like a Kid*, by Robin Goldstein, contains advice for parents of children between the ages of 10 and 13.

• *Witness: Endangered Species of North America*, by Susan Middleton and David Liittschwager, is a photographic portrait of 100 plants and animals currently on the Endangered Species List.

Children's Fiction

• A young girl and her father prepare a colorful birthday surprise for her mother in *Flower Garden*, by Eve Bunting. (Ages 3-5.)

• Two children, reflecting on a number of grandmas differing in appearance and habits, know that their grandma is the best, in *Our Granny*, by Margaret Wild. (Ages 3-5.)

• Henry's concern about how to become friends with Annie dissolves during a lively frisby game in *Henry and Mudge and the Careful Cousin*, by Cynthia Rylant. (Ages 5-7.)

• Harry's wish comes true—again and again and again—in *Harry's Birthday*, by Barbara An Porte. (Ages 5-7.)

• During the celebration of Chinese New Year, Jin Mun meets a slave girl, Wai Hing, and helps in obtaining her freedom, in *Red Means Good Fortune: A Story of San Francisco's Chinatown*, by Barbara Diamond Goldin. (Ages 7-10.)

• In *Circlemaker*, by Maxine Rose Schur, 12-year-old Mendel decides that a risk-filled journey to America by himself is a better option than being drafted into the czar's army along with other Jewish boys. (Ages 10 and up.)

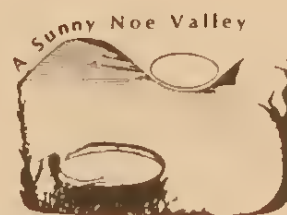
Children's Non-Fiction

• The "how-to" of Go Fish, Rummy, and many other card games is explained by Joanna Cole and Stephanie Calmenson in *Crazy Eights and Other Card Games*. (Ages 7 and up.)

• Interesting background on the Frank family and their time in the "secret annex" is provided in *Anne Frank, Beyond the Diary: A Photographic Remembrance*, by Ruud van der Rol and Rian Verhoeven. (Ages 9 and up.)

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WORD PROCESSING, ETC. Let my ears listen, my fingers fly, my eyes read, and my mind work for you. Experienced legal secretary. All work welcomed, including statistical typing. Dena Reiner, 821-4661.

ALWAYS FORGETTING BIRTHDAYS? Too busy to remember all those holidays? Experienced writer will mail your greetings cards on time! Your cards or mine. Call The Card Minder at 282-4643.

GROUP THERAPY has helped a lot of people learn more comfortable and rewarding ways of relating. If being around others is hard for you or unsatisfying, consider joining our male/female psychotherapy group. It meets Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m., and costs \$30 per session. Call Pat Sax, L.C.S.W., 661-7158, or John Gusman, L.C.S.W., 454-2734.

HOUSEKEEPER: Available, reliable, experience, references. 239-9265.

ADORABLE KITTEN for sale to highest bidder, has had inoculations. 647-6833.

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RIPE FRUIT: A Greenhouse for the Imagination provides creative writing training for writers at all levels in Noe Valley. Fertilize your outrageous imagination; cultivate and affirm your unique writing voice; complete vivid, powerful, original work. Call Leslie for winter session schedule, 285-1926.

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PROFESSIONAL HOUSECLEANING. Mature local grad student with two years of experience. Light to heavy duty cleaning, low rates, references available. Call 826-5508.

SAN FRANCISCO VIEWS "THE VILLA." Short-term rentals guesthouse. Fabulous executive suites and rooms. Pool, decks, and views in the best Castro and Noe Valley locations. Rates from \$80. 282-1367.

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LOST PARAKEET. Blue/white, hand-tame, extremely friendly, very very missed. Easy to attract by whistling or offering seed, especially millet. Reward for safe return. Please call with any information. 647-0363.

CAT & PLANT CARE is still doing business in Noe Valley and environs by providing quality care for your cat(s), plants, and home while you're away. I have 15 years of experience, am a non-smoker, and can provide local references. Call for a cat chat, rates, etc. Anna-Kajs (A-K). 648-8132.

MASSAGE AND BODYWORK. Renew yourself in a relaxing, therapeutic session with a skilled, caring massage therapist. This work is an excellent adjunct to other therapies that address the mind, heart or body, and is a natural way to maintain health, celebrate something wonderful, cope with stressful times, relieve tense or aching muscles. For appointments or more information, call Deborra Clayton, C.M.T., at 550-0955.

ONE-DAY YOGA RETREAT. Treat yourself to a day of quiet doing yoga practices, hatha yoga, meditation, etc. A delicious vegetarian lunch will be served. Registration is required five days in advance. Sunday, Feb. 5, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., \$35. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St., S.F. 821-1117.

GUITAR LESSONS. Rock, blues, country, flamenco. Learn songs, concepts, theory, improvisation and technique. Teaching 18 years Castro area. Michael Telle, 552-0699.

WRITERS SUPPORT GROUP now accepting new members. All genres. 641-8615.

JANET JEAN MOTIKA will give a participatory presentation of her work with expressive sound as a transformational tool. Sunday, Feb. 5, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. 826-2372. Free.

MEDITATION WORKSHOP. This is a practical workshop that will enable students to begin earnest meditation on their own. A clear understanding of what meditation is, how it works, and how to make it an enjoyable daily experience will be presented. Monday, Feb. 27, 7:30 to 9 p.m., \$6. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St., S.F. 821-1117.

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PIANO LESSONS with credentialed, experienced Noe Valley teacher. Classical approach including ear training and theory. All ages welcome. Barbara Barnett, 648-1007.

HANDYMEN Housecalls. Home repair, plaster, paint prep, paint ready. Walls, doors, windows, and floors. Tiling and refinishing. Maintenance, electrical, and plumbing. Olivier, 826-8766.

POETRY WANTED: The *Noe Valley Voice* welcomes submissions of poetry, particularly those poems related to neighborhood themes, people, or places. Payment upon publication. Send submissions with SASE (and a phone number, please) to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

BED AND BREAKFAST Noe Valley. 826-1158.

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WATERCOLOR CLASSES and workshops. Individual attention for beginners to advanced. Taught by professional artist with extensive teaching experience. Small groups, day and evening sessions. Please call Sabine at 731-5212.

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EXPERT HOUSECLEANER Ten years' experience. Local references. Careful and thorough, done to your specifications. Expert garden care available. Call Margaret, 824-0894.

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SUPERIOR HOUSECLEANING SYSTEMATIC, consistent, superior cleaning with 17 years of excellent references. Serving San Francisco seven days a week. Moving in or out also a specialty. Deana, 510-547-2469.

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OVERWHELMED BY CLUTTER? Call a professional organizer for successful solutions to what goes where. Ten years of experience organizing offices, residences, businesses, moving, parties, closets, garages, and much more. Free consultation. Deborah Silberberg, 621-3425.

CLASADS

COLOR CONSULTANT: Expert housepainter and artistic eye available to assist you in color and design choices for your next interior or exterior painting or redecoration project. Fun, effective, satisfying results. References. Sharon, 826-5934.

SHEEP DUNG ESTATES' Remote country cottages on 160 acres near Boonville. Dogs welcome! Wood-burning stoves! Views! \$75 nightly. 707-894-5322.

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STEREO REPAIR. Save time! Save money! Offering in-home stereo repair at reasonable rates. Formerly with Pacific Stereo, now serving the San Francisco community for 10 years. References. Guarantee. Gene's Sound Service, 553-3751.

WOMEN WRITERS' GROUP meets monthly in Noe Valley to provide support for challenges of writing and the creative process, including: writer's block, inner critic, self-disclosure, failure/success issues, and isolation. Individual consultation also available. Maire Farrington, M.F.C.C. No. 24893. 282-5965.

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TAX PREPARATION, accounting services. CPA specializing in small businesses and individuals. Reasonable rates; half-hour free consultation. Ten percent discount mention this ad. 826-2958.

LEARN JAPANESE. All levels conversation, grammar, reading and writing. Daytime, evening, or weekend. Individual or group classes in my home (Noe Valley). Learn Japanese and Japanese culture in a relaxed atmosphere. Please contact Atsuko, 824-1883.

GUITARS WANTED Martin, Fender, Gibson, miscellaneous. Top cash paid. 641-8881.

PIANO LESSONS for children, teens, adults, using traditional and Suzuki methods and a variety of musical styles. I have an education degree from S.F.S.U. and 16 years of experience in San Francisco. Call Patricia Avery, 550-8299.

CASH FOR OLD WOOD FURNITURE, rugs, and household items. One-Eyed Jacks, 621-4390.

CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY and slipcovers. Excellent work. Photos and references. One-Eyed Jacks, 621-4390.

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CLEANINGHOUSE Home, office, apartment and apartment building maintenance cleaning. Regular, one-time. Moving in, moving out? Spring cleaning! Roger Miller, 664-0513. References.

RECOVER LOST FORTUNES. Manual shows you how. \$20 billion in lost fortunes goes unclaimed! Free information from local author. Mazel Publishing, P.O. Box 460040, San Francisco, CA 94146-0040.

BED AND BREAKFAST, quaint garden suite, spacious, front room, full kitchen, big bedroom and office area, laundry room, modern bathroom, ornamental gas fireplace, arched window view of garden with flowers, ground level, parking, separate entrance, quiet, near 26th and Sanchez, close to shopping and transportation, privacy. \$90 to \$140 per night; additional rooms available. Call 206-1999.

BED & BREAKFAST, "A Victorian Legacy," designer's beautiful three-room suite with private entrance. Excellent Noe Valley location. Price reduction with this ad. 648-8879.

PIANO LESSONS for children. Patient, experienced. Noe Valley teacher. Elva, 285-5769.

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IRISH HOUSECLEANER. Home or office. Excellent experience, references available. Regular or one-time. Call Sheila, 759-8826.

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COMPLETE GARDENING SERVICE. Creative efficient and experienced. Design creation, consultations. Pruning, planting, maintenance and clean-ups. 626-1258.

CAREER COUNSELING. Pathways to Satisfying Work. Are you dissatisfied with your current work situation, considering a career change, or interested in generating strategies to manage your career in this changing job market? I offer counseling in a supportive environment to help you identify your strengths and the tools and resources to move forward in your life. Sheila E. Weishlatt, M.S. 241-1586.

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TRANSFORM YOUR JUNGLE into a paradise. Pruning, cleanups, planting, lawns, irrigation, maintenance. Call Jorge at 826-7840 for free estimates. Remember, it's pruning time.

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BED AND BREAKFAST. Visiting family and friends will enjoy the lovely Noe Valley home, gracious hostess, and scrumptious breakfasts at Liz's Bed and Breakfast. 648-2515.

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MASSAGE THERAPY in Noe Valley: Safe, professional, holistic massage for men and women by a certified massage therapist. Half-price first session is only \$20. Member A.M.T.A. Angela R. Quail, C.M.T. 824-5302.

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How to Use Voice Class Ads

The rate for classified advertising in the *Noe Valley Voice* is 25¢ a word. Just type or print your copy, multiply the number of words by 25¢ (we trust you), enclose a check or money order for the full amount, and mail it to us by the 15th of the month preceding the month in which you'd like the ad to appear.

Please let us know whether your ad is a renewal from a previous issue. (But be sure to give us the full ad copy, in any case.)

Reward for Loyalty: The *Voice* comes out 10 times a year—we don't publish in January and August. If you decide to place the same class ad in 10 issues (a year's worth), you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. When figuring your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

Our next issue will be the March 1995 issue, and will hit the streets on Wednesday, March 1. To place a class ad, mail your ad copy and a check, made payable to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by Feb. 15. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Sorry, but we are unable to accept phone orders.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be highlighted in all caps. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. □

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CALENDAR

FEB. 1, 8, 15 & 22: Bring your infants and toddlers to the Noe Valley Library's ongoing LAPSIT program. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

FEB. 1-2B: Noe Valley artist Kit Cameron exhibits LANDSCAPE DRAWINGS at Rami's Caffe. Reception Feb. 4, 3-5 pm. 1361 Church St. 641-0678.

FEB. 2: Chel Joyce Goldstein will be among the panelists discussing HEALTH AND NUTRITION at the Congregation Emanu-El Sisterhood Series, "Mind, Body and Soul." 10:30 am. 2 Lake St. 759-7121.

FEB. 2: Warner Bros. recording artists T.J. Kirk (formerly James T. Kirk), Charlie Hunter, John Schott, Will Bernard, and Scott Amendola play JAZZ at Elbo Room. 10 pm. Valencia & 17th. 552-7788.

FEB. 4: Oeborah Franzini leads a Feldenkrais Method WORKSHOP, "Reclaiming Your Full Height." Noon-3 pm. Back Room Yoga Studio, 1199 Sanchez St. 821-2979.

FEB. 4: TENOR Antoine Garth and pianist Richard Walker perform 19th and 20th century "Songs About Romance." 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

FEB. 4, 11, 18 & 25: Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center sponsors Mission MURAL WALKS. 1:30-3:30 pm. 348 Precita Ave. 285-2287.

FEB. 5: St. Paul's PARISH activity groups, clubs, and choirs will be on hand to give information to prospective members. 9 am. St. Paul's Auditorium, 221 Valley St. 648-7538.

FEB. 5: Mixed Media art works by 25 Latino/Chicano artists are featured at "Amor-o-Roma II," a Valentine's Day ART AUCTION at Galeria de la Raza/Studio 24. Preview, noon; auction, 2 pm. 2857 24th St. 826-8009.

FEB. 5: The Mark Little Quartet performs JAZZ selections at the Community Music Center. 4 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

FEB. 5: Old Wives' Tales sponsors "Open Michelle Night," featuring spoken word, song, and PERFORMANCE. 7 pm. 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675.

FEB. 5 & 6: The Greater Bay Area Health Ministries Adventist HEALTH VAN offers blood pressure and cholesterol screenings. 10 am-4 pm. Feb. 5: Mission & 24th. Feb. 6: Castro & 18th. 775-2570.

FEB. 6: S.F. Community College offers a free eight-week CLASS, "Healing the Wounds of Shame in Recovery." 6:30 pm. Everett Middle School, 450 Church St. 585-5150.

FEB. 6-MARCH 27: The Writing Parlor sponsors a CREATIVE WRITING class, taught by Margo Perrin. Monday nights, 7-10 pm. 77 Oorland St. 252-7643.

FEB. 7: St. Mary's Medical Center offers a free large-screen VIDEO screening of Keanu Reeves' 1994 thriller, *Speed*. 1:30 pm. Morrissey Hall, 450 Stanyan St. 668-1000.

FEB. 7: The Noe Valley Ministry invites local merchants to a BENEFIT PARTY for the Community Building Fund for the Roof. 6-8 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. Call Vi Gianaras at 824-8000 for information.

FEB. 7, 14 & 2B: Preschool STORY TIME begins at 10 am at the Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

FEB. 7, 14, 21 & 2B: Sri Chinmoy's Path of the Heart gives free beginning MEDITATION CLASSES starting at 7 pm. Bethany United Methodist Church, 201 Clipper St. 664-1327.

FEB. 9: Parents Place co-hosts a PRESCHOOL PREVIEW NIGHT with representatives from over 40 San Francisco facilities. 7-10 pm. Hall of Flowers, 9th Ave. & Lincoln Way. 563-1041.

FEB. 9: The monthly meeting of FRIENDS of Noe Valley starts at 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 282-7976.

FEB. 10: Cynthia Carosella reads from her resource book for RAPE SURVIVORS, *Who's Afraid of the Dark?* 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

FEB. 10: The Noe Valley Chamber Music Series presents a recital of AMERICAN ART SONGS by Copland, Hoiby, Weill, and Barber, performed by pianist Jonathan Bley and soprano Sarah Macy Woodcock. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 664-5464.

FEB. 10-12: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S Western Regional Conference features workshops, panel discussions, and training sessions. Cathedral Hill Hotel, 1101 Van Ness Ave. Call 677-7936 for registration information.

FEB. 11: St. Mary's Medical Center hosts a day devoted to WOMEN'S HEALTH, featuring seminars, exhibits, and health screenings. 450 Stanyan St. Call WomanKind at 750-5775 for info.

FEB. 11: CHILDREN of all ages are welcome at Old Wives' Tales "Celebration of Children," featuring readings and song by talented young people. 10 am. 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675.

FEB. 11: Back Room Yoga Studio offers a free YOGA CLASS taught by Susan Branum. Noon-1:30 pm. 1199 Sanchez St. 821-2979.



It's easy to find a romantic corner in Noe Valley on Feb. 14. PHOTO BY ED BURNIN

FEB. 11: Local STORYTELLERS Awele Makeba, Karen McKie, and Luisah Teish perform an afternoon of tall tales for Black History Month. 1 pm. The Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

FEB. 11: Natural Resources sponsors an introductory class on INFANT MASSAGE for working mothers. 2-3:30 pm. 4081 24th St. 550-2611.

FEB. 11: A new group called Noe Valley UNITEO Productions invites Noe Valley residents in film, video, or entertainment to a founding meeting at 88 28th St. 4-6 pm. Christina Marie, 824-1837.

FEB. 11: The Noe Valley Music Series presents MARIA MULCAIR, unplugged, in a concert with pianist John R. Burr. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

FEB. 12: Jan Zobel leads a seminar on basic TAX and recordkeeping for self-employed people. 10 am-4 pm. Call 821-1015 for info.

FEB. 12: Anastasia's Mediterranean Cooking Classes and Dinners holds an international RECIPE FAIR and potluck. 3-7 pm. 3718 24th St. 826-5886.

FEB. 12: A CANTATE service of chanting, meditation, and prayer begins at 7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

FEB. 13: The Diamond Senior Center hosts a Valentine's Day lunch and QANCE. Noon-3 pm. 117 Diamond St. 863-3507.

FEB. 15: The Noe Valley Library screens a 1919 German FILM, *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

FEB. 16: "The Art of Breastfeeding and Avoiding Difficulties" is the discussion topic at this month's meeting of LA LECHE LEAGUE. 9:45 am. Natural Resources, 4077 1/2 24th St. 282-7B16.

FEB. 18: Friends of GLEN CANYON PARK meet to restore natural plants in natural areas of the park. 9 am-noon. Call 584-8576 for information.

FEB. 18 & 19: The Community Music Center Orchestra accompanies student winners of the second annual CONCERTO competition. 3 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

FEB. 20: San Francisco Performances presents an informal CONCERT and conversation with Russian-born Israeli pianist Yefim Bronfman. 5:30-6:30 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.



FEBRUARY 1995

FEB. 21: The Noe Valley Library shows FILMS for preschoolers at 10 and 11 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

FEB. 21: Old Wives' Tales presents "An Evening of SEX," with readings by Linda Smukler, Carol Queen, Margot Lynn, Wickie Stamps, and Pat Calitia. 8 pm. 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675.

FEB. 22: Members of the Noe Valley Library's BOOK Discussion Group discuss their February selection, Nadine Gordimer's novel *None to Accompany Me*. 7:30 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

FEB. 23: Contributors to the ANTHOLOGY *Liberalizing Memory: Our Work and Our Working-Class Consciousness* read at 7:30 pm at Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

FEB. 24: Local midwife Lisa Rasler discusses "HOMEBIRTH: A Conscious Choice." 7-9 pm. 4081 24th St. 550-2611.

FEB. 25: San Francisco School Volunteers offers orientation and training for new VOLUNTEERS. 9 am-noon. New Traditions Elementary School, 2049 Grove St. 274-0250.

FEB. 25: Free physical exams, HIV testing, and blood pressure, diabetes, and TB tests will be available at the Mission Neighborhood Health Center's Community HEALTH FAIR. 9 am-3 pm. 240 Shotwell St. 552-3870.

FEB. 25: Holey Bagel and the Noe Valley Ministry holds a "Mixed Bag," the first in a series of neighborhood FORUMS on diversity. 1-3 p.m. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

FEB. 25: Gamelan Angklung Kenbang Sari performs the songs and dances of BALI. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

FEB. 26: Bethany United Methodist Church celebrates MARDI GRAS with an 11 am jazz service with a Dixieland band and a 12:30 pm brunch. 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

FEB. 26: Musica Pacifica performs VIRTUOSO MUSIC from Italy, 1550-1750, on harpsichord, recorder, and baroque violin. 2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

FEB. 28: Local POETS James Alsop, Oon Hilla, Mark Neville, and Judy Stedman are featured at Keane's 3300 Club's monthly poetry reading. 7 pm. 29th & Mission. 824-0835.

FEB. 28: Timothy W. Orescher discusses his book, *San Francisco MURALS: A Community Creates Its Muse*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

MARCH 1: Bethany Methodist Church holds an ASH WEDNESDAY service, "Standing in the Need of Prayer." 6:30 pm. 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

The Scoop on Calendar

The March issue of the *Noe Valley Voice* will appear Wednesday, March 1, and will publicize calendar events occurring March 1-31. The deadline for Calendar items is Feb. 15, 1995. Please mail your notice to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley events receiving priority. □



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"WILL AND THE DILL"

Bill Griffith



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